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THE LATEST NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Published in Jerusalem
צא לאור ביחשלים

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Israel warns Reagan bid doomed U.S. not giving up on King Hussein

A week after Jordan King Hussein's sudden announcement that he would not take part in the U.S. peace initiative, the Reagan administration pressed on with its efforts to bring Jordan into the negotiations. Israel warned that America's efforts were doomed because U.S. diplomacy had cast the PLO in the key role, while PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said that the Reagan peace plan is not dead. Syria, however, served notice that it will continue to veto any bid to salvage Reagan's plan. Damascus made clear that it will not remove its opposition to the PLO granting Jordan a mandate to enter negotiations.

Syrian President Hafez Assad was reported to have called in two leading PLO radicals, Nafiz Hawatme of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Ahmed Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, to discuss "Zionist and American designs aimed at liquidating the Palestine problem."

Hawatme and Jibril are believed to have been among the PLO leaders who prevented Arafat from giving Hussein the go-ahead.

Secretary of State George Shultz last week called on moderate Palestinians to accept Jordan's involvement in the peace negotiations. Barring that, he told a State Department news conference, the Arab world should consider revising the 1974 Rabat decision naming the PLO the sole representative of the Palestinians.

Shultz insisted that the president's September 1 peace initiative is still "on the high ground" and that the U.S. has no intention of abandoning it.

Shultz continued to express confidence that moderate Arabs would eventually come around to join the U.S.-sponsored negotiations.

Shultz flatly rejected any increased U.S. pressure on Israel, insisting, as he often has in the past, that the objective of peace alone should be enough of an incentive to achieve progress in the negotiations.

President Ronald Reagan urged "radical elements" in the Arab world to reconsider their opposition to allowing Hussein to join the peace process.

"As we speak now, radical elements are seeking to prevent an agreement which would permit King Hussein to join the peace process talks," Reagan said in welcoming Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman to the White House.

The president warned that Palestinians face only two clear-cut choices: "status quo and the continued frustration of the peoples or making a bold and courageous move to break the deadlock."

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned last week that the U.S. will fail again if it presses ahead with the Reagan initiative. "Even though in the U.S. they are saying that they will continue it will not succeed," Shamir told a Likud audience in Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 2)



More than 1,000 parents, children and relatives of soldiers who fell in Israel's wars attended a Memorial Day ceremony on Saturday night in which President Yitzhak Navin kindled a memorial flame.

Israel marks its 35th birthday

Jerusalem Post Staff
Israelis mark the 35th anniversary of independence on April 18 by hiking through old battlefields, visiting military bases, picnicking, and getting together with friends and family. Celebrations begin Sunday evening with the traditional torchlighting ceremony atop Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

Twelve men and women representing this year's theme, the value of Israel, will kindle the torches (see page 3). The ceremony concludes with a fireworks display visible in many parts of Jerusalem.

Entertainment platforms have been erected in all the cities and towns, and *kumizim*—bonfires—are being organized that will last until early in the morning. In Jerusalem,



A specially struck coin of valor to be given to the 12 persons lighting the Independence Day beacons on Mt. Herzl.

Independence Park will be the principal site of entertainment, with

dancing and music until 11 p.m. Fireworks will be set off from atop the Plaza Hotel and over the Laroune Hotel.

Strollers in the center of town will find the triangle of Ben-Yehuda, King George and Jaffa Road decorated, and entertainers will be strategically placed. Dancing and singing of Israeli songs will take place in the Liberty Bell Garden.

Tel Aviv's Rehov Dizengoff will become a pedestrian mall from Dizengoff Circle to Sderot Ben-Gurion Sunday night. Seven entertainment platforms will be located along the route, in addition to others in various parts of Tel Aviv. On Monday, there will be a parade along the route, with dancers, athletes, clowns and bands.

Labour protests at plan for new West Bank town

Jerusalem Post Staff

Labour Party and United Kibbutz Movement leaders have strongly condemned the government's plan to grant civilian status this week to a military settlement overlooking the town of Nablus on the West Bank.

Party chairman MK Shimon Peres, MK Yitzhak Rabin, party secretary MK Haim Bar-Lev and the movement's ex-secretaire-general Yosef Perlmutter and Eli Zamir told a press conference on Friday that the so-called "Upper Nablus" settlement would divide the nation on Independence Day and might lead to violence.

About 25 Peace Now demonstrators last week set up an "illegal protest settlement" outside the planned site of "Upper Nablus." Thousands of Peace Now members and their supporters were expected to hold a protest at the site

while government officials dedicate the settlement on Monday.

Peres said that while it is Israel's right to settle anywhere, the planned settlement would help make Israel a Jewish state with a large Arab minority and reduce the chances for achieving peace with the country's neighbors.

Rabin called the plan to turn the army outpost on Mt. Bracha into a civilian settlement an attempt to impose Israeli sovereignty practically in the midst of an Arab city. "I call upon the prime minister, to cancel the ceremony to make the settlement a civilian one on Independence Day; an issue on which the nation is so divided."

Bar-Lev warned that "settlement in the heart of Arab areas brings about the daily need to rule over thousands of Palestinians who do not want Israeli rule."

'Last hurdle' to Lebanon agreement

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Menachem Begin and U.S. special envoy Philip C. Habib, meeting in Jerusalem last week, failed to resolve the key remaining issue of dispute in the Lebanon negotiations, the future status of Major Sa'ad Haddad, the Israel-backed militia leader.

Nevertheless, the upbeat mood was maintained, both in Jerusalem and at the talks themselves in Haid, Lebanon. Well-placed sources continue to be confident that an agreement is only weeks away.

Habib himself was quoted by Israeli sources as saying he hopes to wrap up the accord during his present stay in the region. He has not said how long this stay will be.

The issue of King Hussein's refusal to enter the peace process did not come up in the Begin-Habib 90-minute conversation. It is reliably learned.

The prime minister dwelt on Israel's demand that Haddad, the Christian militia chief in South Lebanon, be put in command of Lebanese army forces to be deployed in the region after the IDI's withdrawal.

Lebanon has indicated that it is prepared to evict Haddad's remaining forces in the south; but Beirut is still balking at Israel's insistence that he be put in command of the region.

Observers expect the question of Haddad's precise status and powers to be the subject of hard last-minute bargaining between the two sides, with both having to give a little ground to facilitate a compromise.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens met with Haddad in South Lebanon at week's end, and called him "a great patriot, a friend of Israel." He said a positive change towards Haddad appears likely on the part of the Lebanese Government.

Two other security-linked issues that are still posing problems are the future of UNIFIL — Israel does not want the UN force to stay in the south — and the precise details of the proposed joint Lebanese-Israeli military patrols in the southern security zone.

Israeli sources said they were satisfied with explanations received from the Lebanese.

(Continued on page 2)

NEWSTAND PRICES IN LOCAL CURRENCY

Australia	\$1.20	Italy	Li. 1,800
Canada	\$1.45	South Africa	Rd1.20
Denmark	DK8.00	Sweden	8K6.50
Germany	DM2.80	Switzerland	SF2.30
Holland	fl. 3.00	United Kingdom	60p
Israel	1835.00	United States	\$1.25

At 35

MEMORIAL DAY and Independence Day, by design, demand a violent wrenching of the national mood. The nation, before celebrating its sovereignty, which has so changed the position and character of the Jewish People, is first summoned to dwell upon the thousands of fallen, the thousands of tales of pain and tragedy and sacrifice etched indelibly into the independence the living enjoy.

For unlike other states marking their emergence to sovereignty, Israel's national freedom, while fixed by a date in history, has had to overcome a continuing process of violent challenge. Each generation and sub-generation, since 1948, has had to man the ramparts and sustain the onslaughts of those who would extinguish Jewish political sovereignty. It is entirely fitting therefore, that the celebration of national freedom is intertwined with sombre contemplation of its tragic costs.

The nation's 35th Independence Day poses this duality in vivid nullity. A war begun almost a year ago is still not ended. Its toll continues to mount, though the set battles have long concluded.

But the duality, on this Independence Day, has a special resonance. For the contemplation of freedom and its costs is no longer unshared in a broad national consensus that characterized Israel for so long. The vision of Israel's vital national security needs, for which further sacrifice may have to be sustained, inherent in the policy of the Government and shared by its supporters, alienates a broad section of the nation.

In the daily parlance of politics, this division is perceived in partisan and party terms. But its significance far transcends the dialogue of party. For the values that keep the nation together, not the calculations of party advantage, are at issue.

In a curious way, yet to be fully understood, the very severity of this national division, has produced a numbing fatalism. Never has the national agenda been so filled with signs of attrition, with so few accompanying signs of national concern.

Wherever the eye is cast, danger looms. The economy, when measured by productivity, is in disastrous retreat. The divisions between orthodox and secular, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, Arab and Jew have been sharply exacerbated. And in external affairs, Israel's international position, including relations with the U.S., has plummeted to a perilous loneliness.

Impelled by a single-minded preoccupation to fasten Jewish rule in the West Bank and Gaza, the government has sought to turn the usages of occupation into an ethic and the resultant international isolation into a virtue.

Confronted with such an agenda, perhaps it is not surprising that a harried people should retreat into the comforts of privatism and the benefits of consumption, expediently supplied by a Treasury whose only policy is to secure foreign subsidy in order to keep reality away.

But such retreat, like the bubble of foreign and economic policy which sustain it, can only be a temporary refuge. For it is not the stuff of which national independence is made or fortified.

As we mark the 35th year of our history of achievement and sacrifice, we could do no better than to rekindle the national understanding that we could, and must, do better.



Ivri in 1981 (Robinger)

Former air chief gets new top post

Post Defence Correspondent

David Ivri, the head of Israel Aircraft Industries who was until last December commander of the Air Force, was named deputy chief-of-staff on Friday, in a move that surprised many in the defence establishment.

Ivri was reported reluctant to leave his current post and return to uniform. He agreed after three weeks of procrastination, culminating in a meeting with Defence Minister Moshe Arens on Friday morning.

The army spokesman also announced on Friday that the current head of general staff's planning division, Major-General Ehud Barak, will replace Yehoshua Saguy as head of military intelligence. Barak, at 40 one of the Israel Defence Force's youngest generals, was also reluctant to accept the position, having preferred a field command, like that of O.C. Northern Command, whose present incumbent Aluf Amir Dvori, is due to leave his post in about six months.

Soccer surprise

Maccabi Jaffa caused the shock of the soccer season on Saturday when they defeated league leaders Maccabi Netanya 1-0.

National League results:

Bnei Shimon 3, Macc. TA 0
Yehud C. Shimon 0
Macc. PI 0, Ramat Gan 0
Macc. Haifa 0, Hapoel J'm 0
Hapoel J'm 0, Yavne 0
Hapoel J'm 2, Macc. Sava 0
Netanya 0, Jaffa 1
Hapoel TA 4, Bnei Yehuda 1

Standings of top teams

	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
1 Netanya	17	4	5	30:29	35
2 Shimon	11	10	5	32:31	43
3 Hapoel TA	12	7	8	28:19	43
4 Bnei Shimon	9	11	6	26:20	38
5 Macc. PI	9	9	8	25:21	36
6 Macc. Haifa	8	11	7	23:23	35
7 Macc. PI	8	10	9	23:26	34
8 Bnei Yehuda	7	12	7	22:28	33
9 Hapoel J'm	6	13	7	30:29	31
10 Yehud	7	10	9	15:24	31

Glickstein victory

Israel's top tennis player, Shlomo Glickstein, defeated junior champion Amos Mansdorf 6-3, 6-3, in Ashkelon at the weekend to win the singles in the \$125,000 Dabek Cup.

Dutch friends arrive

Eighty members of the Israel Comité Nederland have arrived for the 35th anniversary of Israel. The ICN is an organization of friendship for Israel founded after the Yom Kippur War by non-Jewish Dutchmen.

THE WEATHER

Because of work sanctions in the meteorological department we are unable to give the usual details of temperatures. Generally it has been warm with clear skies.

REAGAN NOT GIVING UP

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking to newsmen later, Shamir averred that the Reagan initiative was "not alive" any longer. Shamir lashed out at Washington for failing to see "what any open-eyed observer of Mideast affairs sees: that a peace between Israel and an Arab state that is contingent upon an all-Arab consensus is impossible."

Shamir questioned how anyone could "imagine that a peace between Israel and an Arab state can be achieved under the supervision of the PLO. It is an utter absurdity. The PLO, in its very essence, opposes peace and will always strive to undermine peace."

Shamir said there was "no joy or rejoicing" in the Israeli government over the refusal of Jordan's King Hussein to join the peace process and the consequent collapse of the Reagan Initiative. Israel had no reason to rejoice if the prospect of peace had receded.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin was quoted by aides as telling the visiting mayor of Brussels that Israel had not been surprised by Hussein's decision, but the U.S. had been. Jordan's official announcement on April 10 said Amman would not enter Mideast negotiations at this time — either "separately" or "in lieu of anyone else."

In an announcement following a three-hour cabinet meeting chaired by Hussein, Jordan stressed, however, that it remains committed to the idea that the peace initiative launched by Reagan last September, while lacking certain elements contained in the plan adopted at the Arab summit in Fez a few days later, "presented the vehicle that could propel the Fez plan forward."

The failure of Arafat to secure PLO support for this strategy, the announcement indicated, had led Jordan to conclude that it would be best left to "the PLO and the Palestinian people to choose their ways and means for the salvation of themselves and their land, and for the realization of their declared aims in the manner they see fit."

The Jordanian announcement followed five months of intensive dialogue with the PLO.

There was a perceptible note of angry frustration in the Jordanian

Dry Bones



announcement at Arafat's failure to "sell" the PLO an arrangement that had apparently been worked out in Amman earlier this month.

Both Jordanian and Palestine Liberation Organization officials sought later to dispel any sense of crisis between them.

Source quoted in Amman noted that Jordan still believes progress is possible, but only after a period of rapprochement by the PLO and Washington — not Jordan.

In Stockholm, Arafat was quoted as saying Reagan's peace plan is not dead.

A report in *The Wall Street Journal* said last week that Hossain had sent a secret message to Reagan explaining his withdrawal from the peace initiative. It included these points:

- The Reagan plan, by excluding the PLO, gave Arafat and his associates too little incentive to support it.
- The Soviets directly opposed the plan and constantly worked against it through their Syrian surrogates.
- America, by its failure to induce an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, severely undermined its credibility in the Arab world.
- Arafat proved incapable of standing up to radicals within the PLO.
- The king's supposed supporters among Arab moderates finally proved more meddlesome than helpful.

(Compiled from reports by David Landon, David Bernstein and Wolf Blitzer in Washington.)

LEBANON HURDLE

(Continued from page 1)

lost week about the impending in Beirut area of goods originating from Israel. The Lebanese said the confiscations were part of a crack-down on smuggling and were not directed specifically at trade with Israel.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and six wounded in Lebanon last week, as IDF troops came under attack in a number of incidents.

Samal-Rishon (sniff sergeant)

Noam Eshkol, 21, of Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, was killed when the vehicle in which he was riding overturned after being attacked by Kabir Shamoun, southeast of Beirut. Torai-Rishon (lance-corporal) Asael Wahab, 20, of Petah Tikva, was killed when his patrol vehicle came under light weapons fire near Deir al-Kamer in the Souf Mountains.

A third soldier, whose name was not released, was killed by small arms fire.

The theft over the weekend of at least \$5 million in antique watchworks and other treasures exhibited at Jerusalem's L.A. Myster Memorial Institute for Islamic Art was "done to order," authorities

sources told *The Jerusalem Post*. A highly placed source in the investigation said that the "sophisticated" burglars "went through the exhibits, picking out

items. They knew what they were looking for." The heist in the western wing of the museum, a stone's throw from the president's residence, took place some time between Friday night and Saturday morning.

In addition to the many 18th and 19th century watchworks, originally owned by the first Jewish lord mayor of London, Sir David Salomons, several antique books and a painting were stolen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY



Salute to valour

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

THE CEREMONY atop Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl ushering in Independence Day follows a rigid formula which has not been changed over the years.

The main variation is the different people who are selected to kindle the 12 torches — symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel — at the high point of the ceremony.

With this year's designated theme "The Year of Valour," the dozen people chosen to kindle the torches all have something to do with Jewish bravery in wars since 1939 and underground movements in Eretz Yisrael. The 12 are:

YOSEF AVIDAR, 77, was born in Russia. He packed up his belongings, at the age of 19 and moved to Eretz Yisrael, where he worked in construction and later joined the Hagana in Jerusalem. In the 1929 Arab riots, he commanded Hagana fighters in the Old City. During training in 1931, he lost the palm of his right hand. Avidar was given responsibility for the overnight "lower and stockade" settlements in the '30s, and for the establishment of 11 Negav settlements in 1946. In 1945 he was named deputy chief of staff of the Hagana. He later served as Israel's ambassador to Moscow and Argentina.

At the age of 65 he decided to study, and went to the Hebrew University, which granted him, nine years later, a doctoral degree in Russian studies. He has two daughters and seven grandchildren.

RAFAEL SABAN was born in Jerusalem in 1915. His father came from Turkey, and his mother was the daughter of Yehoshua Burla, the holder of the keys to the tomb of Rachel. Rafael was a disciple of Vladimir Jabotinsky, and joined Betar in 1931. Under the command of David Raziel, he was called upon to collect funds for the IZL. Saban planned the robbery of the Rehavia branch of Bank Yehudi in Jerusalem, and took on the job himself after the young man he had trained took ill. He was arrested by the British, and was sentenced to

five years in prison. When the IZL was disbanded in 1948, he joined the Israel Defence Forces.

YEHOASHUA COHEN, 61, was born in Tel Aviv, and moved with his family to Kfar Sava at the age of six. Eight years later he joined the IZL. After the split in the underground organization, he became part of Lehi, in which he fought actively. He later moved to Kibbutz Sede Boker, and served as David Ben-Gurion's companion during his famous long morning walks. He still works in the kibbutz orchards.

ZIVA ARBEL, born in Turkey in 1928, settled here in 1943 with the help of Youth Aliya. In 1945 she joined the Palmah and was sent to the Galilee. She became known as a very daring fighter and taught many others. During the War of Independence she commanded soldiers at Kfar Giladi, and took part in battles in the north, the Jerusalem Corridor, the central region and the Negev. She married after the war and had three children, who are now parents themselves. Since 1972 she has worked in the Ministry of Tourism, and directs the tourist office at Ben-Gurion Airport.

YONATAN FRIDAN, born in Tel Aviv in 1921, is now 62, but he still serves in the army reserves.

Fridan joined the Hagana when he was 18. In 1941, he joined the British army, and joined the Jewish Brigade to fight the Nazis. He was awarded a top medal for his fighting in Italy. He joined the IDF in 1948 and remained until 1954, having served as commander of a training base and as a Oadna officer. Today he runs an industrial factory and is in charge of a training course in Koor.

YERAHMIEL PALZENSTEIN, 59, was born in the Ukraine. When Hitler's army invaded in 1941, he volunteered for the Red Army and became an officer. He was awarded the Lenin Prize for his outstanding service, during which he was seriously wounded. After the War he worked in the textile industry.

Only in 1975 was he allowed to emigrate. Today he works in the military industries.

SIMHA ROTEM was born in Warsaw in 1924. He joined the fighters when the Warsaw Ghetto uprising broke out, and led the few remaining fighters out through sewer pipes to safety in a nearby forest. He later joined the Polish resistance in Warsaw. After the Germans were defeated by the Red Army, Simha Rotem joined the "illegitimate immigration" to Palestine and came on aliya in 1945, when he joined the Hagana. Today he runs Coop Jerusalem, part of the food chain.

GAD SHAHAR is a founder of Kibbutz Regev, of which he is still a member. Born in Tunisia, he was taken to the camps set up by the Germans. After the German defeat he helped found the pioneering movement in his country and joined the Hagana, working in the purchase of weapons and training. He came on aliya in 1945. During the early '40s he worked secretly in the campaign to bring Moroccan Jews on aliya.

BEN-ZION LEITNER, 55, was born in the Ukraine. During World War II he fought as a partisan against the German army. In 1947 he came on aliya alone on an "illegal immigration" ship and joined Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov. During the War of Independence he fought in the Givati Brigade and took part in various escapades, in which he was slashed in the stomach with knives. Though he was almost unconscious, he attacked an enemy bunker and killed the enemy with grenades. He lives in Herzliya Pithul with his family and works in Mann Auditorium.

YA'ACOV (YAKUBA) COHEN works as a gardener in Kibbutz Alonim, but his past career as an intelligence officer was unknown until now. Born in Jerusalem to a family with 13 children, Cohen joined the Palmah and, after the State was established, joined the intelligence corps. When the corps was brought into the Mossad, he took a few years off to study and then returned to the Mossad, for which he launched several secret operations abroad against the Falah. He retired in 1977 and returned to his kibbutz, where he served as kibbutz secretary and now is busy gardening.

SARA SHIMONI, 54, was born in Tunisia, and came on aliya with her husband in 1949. They settled in Lod, where they still live. She worked in immigrant absorption in a transit camp, and then studied social work. The couple's eldest son (they have two other sons and a daughter) was killed in the Yom Kippur War. Since then, Sara has volunteered at Yad Lebanon and counselled other bereaved families.

SEREN MOSHE KRAWITZ received a medal of valour for his service in the Peace for Galilee Operation. Born in Holon 23 years ago, he joined the armoured corps after being drafted into the army. A headstrong yeshiva student, Krawitz was sent to Lebanon last June, and was caught in a tank battle near Halde. When the commander of the tankists was wounded, Krawitz took over, evacuating the wounded and bringing them to cover while risking his own life. He was hit, and his hearing was affected permanently. But he nevertheless continued to save the wounded. He still serves in the army.

Smile, please



Establishing and maintaining the first Jewish State in two millennia was a dream come true. It was — and still is — an undertaking that demands dedication, love and a lot of hard work from every past, present and future Israeli.

Hens to the dream of those who signed the Proclamation of Independence, Israelis today inherit the small of orange blossoms, the sound of our children speaking Hebrew the sense of belonging in the Land our ancestors lived for. There is still plenty to smile about, in spite of the *tsuris*.

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Arens: U.S. ban should lead to hunt for new arms sources

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said last week that while he agreed that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's description of Israel's status in Lebanon as "an occupying power" was "a severe stricture," he felt that the continuing U.S. embargo on 75 F-16 jet fighters and its accompanying explanation that they would be released to Israel "after a withdrawal from Lebanon" was "far worse."

Interviewed on Israel TV's Moked programme, Arens said that this has caused him to reassess the position, and that Israel should consider other options regarding the acquisition of military hardware.

He stressed that Israel could do more to develop such equipment at home, though this did not preclude diversifying the sources of purchase abroad.

Regarding the attitude of U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger, Arens said he was not "disappointed" as he had never had great hopes of Weinberger changing his political line.

Arens said he supported the creation of a "national security council" on the American model. He said the kernel for it existed in the Israeli political structure — the Ministerial Defence Committee — to which could be added a staff of experts and professionals on various security matters.

Our Defence Correspondent adds:

A delegation of American military officials is currently in Israel doing intensive research on the IDF's performance during the Lebanese war.

The group comprises air force and ground forces personnel, who are conducting talks with their

counterparts in the IDF. They are the first of "several dozen" delegations expected here in coming months.

The Americans arrived after Arens last month gave his approval for a complete and candid revelation by Israel of performance and operational data on the war. This despite the American suspension of the signing of a formal agreement for the exchange of information.

The Americans refused to ratify the agreement on the grounds that Israel had placed too many restrictions on the dissemination of the information and was demanding too much in return.

Arens gave his approval in one of several steps he initiated to end the tense relations between the U.S. administration and Israel, generated to a large degree by the style of his predecessor Ariel Sharon.

The exchange of information, it is hoped here, will lead to the lifting of the F-16 embargo and to the granting of technological and possibly financial help in building the Lavie fighter, which Arens considers extremely important if Israel is to maintain its deterrent capability.

What hinders Israeli defence officials, however, is that much of the operational data may ultimately be translated into improving American weapons systems destined for export to Arab countries.

Israel is also worried about the dissemination of this information among America's NATO allies, claiming that NATO is notorious for not being able to keep very much secret.

High on the U.S. research agenda is details on how Israel took on the missile sites, and the performance of Syrian Soviet-supplied armour.



Thousands of striking doctors and supporters held a demonstration in Jerusalem's Rehov Ben-Yehuda mall last week. (Israel Huruf)

Worry for chronically ill as doctors' strike goes on

The strike involving Israel's 8,500 salaried doctors went into its seventh week with no solution in sight, with the Treasury and the Israel Medical Association still deadlocked last week over demands for a 100 per cent increase in salaries, and shorter work hours.

There was rising concern over health care for the chronically ill as thousands of operations have been delayed because of the strike.

Health Ministry officials said there was "room for optimism" as negotiation continued, but doctors representatives said there was "no progress."

Continuation of the strike might lead to the end of "public medicine" in Israel, according to Dr. Haim Doron, head of the Histadrut labour federation's sick fund, which employs 5,000 of the doctors.

The biggest in the country, also employs 10,000 nurses, runs 1,258 clinics and 14 hospitals, and has 3,120,000 members, who pay a monthly fee which entitles them to full medical services.

Doron called for negotiations to continue "night and day" until the strike is ended. He said that about 3,500 operations have been postponed.

"Some of these operations are minor, but others are serious," Doron told a press conference. "If they are not operated on soon, the damage may be permanent."

Emergency treatment is being given in hospitals. Doctors not in public service and the Histadrut are not on strike.

Doron bitterly attacked the method of operation for the "alternative medical stations" set up by the striking doctors, in which the doctors charge a \$1600 (\$15) fee for treatment.

He also noted that the Histadrut Sick fund had reached agreement with non-striking private doctors (i.e., doctors whose entire practice

was private, and who were not wage-earners) to reimburse sick-fund patients according to a certain schedule for examinations and treatments.

Earlier in the week, representatives of chronically-ill patients urged non-stop negotiations towards a settlement.

A representative of disabled veterans complained that men burned in the Lebanon war are not getting plastic surgery because of the strike, since their operations are not a matter of life and death. But delays in performing these operations can lead to more serious disabilities in the future, particularly for patients with facial scars.

Miriam Klein of the Cancer Society said failure to detect cancer in time could cost lives.

A cancer patient, Yosef Kapito, said that he wanted to set the record straight by saying he received excellent care in the hospital during the strike. He added that he heard how much doctors earn, and he knows shoemakers and clerks who earn more. At the same time, he is now facing difficulties receiving the ambulatory care he needs and urged both sides in the dispute to settle it quickly.

The organizations represented sent a joint telegram to Prime Minister Menachem Begin urging him to become personally involved in bringing a speedy end to the strike.

Finance Minister Yoram Andor, who left last week on a fund-raising mission to the U.S., said before his departure:

"I cannot predict how long the negotiations will take, since the doctors have not lowered their fantastic wage demands. I repeat again: The Treasury will not deviate from the 22-per-cent limit on wage rises set by the collective wage agreement."

(Compiled from reports by Lea Levay and Margery Greenfield)

The Hebrew newspapers

Ma'ariv (Independent) writes: "When President Reagan appeals to extremist elements in the Arab world to reconsider their opposition to Jordan King Hussein's participation in the peace process, and on the very same day, Shultz, his secretary of state, addresses moderate Palestinians and asks their agreement to Jordan's entry into the negotiations, it is possible to draw two conclusions:

"The first is that the administration's right hand doesn't know what its left hand is doing. The second is that the president and the secretary of state are agreed on at least one item — that Hussein is not an independent agent who makes free decisions, but requires permission from the radical base in the Arab world and from the moderate elements in the PLO for every step he wants to take."

The newspaper compares Hussein to Lebanon's President Amin Jemayel, who is also "a man not free to decide his own fate... There is not much more than that from negotiations with Jordan should they be arranged according to the programme the Americans have prepared."

Yediot Achronot (Independent) finds no reason to rejoice in President Reagan's promise to an assembly of Holocaust survivors in Washington to guarantee Israel's security, since "he has broken promises to us without hesitation."

The newspaper says Israel must be responsible for its own security, with its own forces.

Davar (Histadrut) does not believe that the Reagan peace plan is dead, predicting that he will seek ways to breathe new life into his plan, even if he has to change its form.

"Arafat's decision not to aid Hassein in solving his difficulties marks only the end of a chapter in the matter. The next chapter — possibly as soon as the next summit of Arab rulers, perhaps after Hussein's talks with Reagan — is liable to throw Israel into a serious crisis in its relations with the U.S."

Yediot Achronot sees the lack of Jewish support for the Jewish Republic candidate for mayor of Chicago as an indication of the general dissatisfaction of American Jews with Reagan. Ma'ariv considers Washington's victory there a chance for a reprieve in black-white and Jewish-Gentile tensions.

Vashchenko, her parents, two sisters and two other members of the sect entered the embassy in June 1978. She left the embassy a year ago in January following a hunger strike protesting the Soviet refusal to allow her to emigrate.

At mid-week, the six remaining Pentecostals left the embassy for Siberia, where they will apply for exit permits to emigrate to Israel.

Vashchenko was reported by Danny Smith, her spokesman, as pleased to be in Israel, but has no definite plans about her future. She is in Israel on a three-month tourist visa.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel last week called upon the Film and Theatre Censorship Board to revoke a decision banning an episode in a new film called '83.

The Board is to review the decision, made on its behalf by a panel of its members.

The section of the film called "The Night a King Was Born" was banned on the grounds that it does serious damage to the IDF and incites the Arab population.

The episode is one of five sections that make up '83, a film depicting changes in Israeli Jewish society resulting from the occupation of Judea and Samaria.

The Association said the ban is an attack on the freedom of expression.

Thousands of resisters have signed a petition expressing their unwillingness to receive the Peace for Galilee campaign ribbon, an ad hoc group called Lo Le'ot ("say no to the ribbon") claimed at a press conference here last week.

Hanan Hever, a spokesman for the group, said the petitions have not all been collected and counted so he could not give an exact number of signatories.

Those who have already signed the petition include high-ranking reserve officers and people who live in settlements on the northern border. It was asserted:

Some of those present said they were also active in Peace Now, but there is no official connection between the two groups. In answer to a question, they said their activities were financed out of their own pockets.

Refusednik Vladimir Slepak marks 13th year of rebuff

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Vladimir Slepak, known among Soviet Jews as the "Father of nix," last week marked the 13th anniversary of the submission of his application to leave to the Russian authorities. But there is as yet no sign that the authorities will approve his exit-permit application.

The 55-year-old radio engineer has been refused emigration longer than any other Soviet Jew. He left his post as head of a laboratory in the Scientific Institute of Television Research in early 1969, hoping that this step would facilitate his application for emigration. But it was turned down on the ground of "classified work," and subsequent applications were rejected on grounds of "state interest."

However, Slepak, according to the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, has not been exposed to classified information since 1969, and has not been employed regularly since 1971.

Thousands of Russian Jews have passed through the Slepak apartment in Moscow over the years, and it has been raided and searched repeatedly. Slepak's name is repeatedly vilified in the Soviet press and on TV. He also served short terms in prison until his arrest in 1978 for "malicious hooliganism," when he hung a banner from his balcony calling for the right to go to Israel.



Vladimir Slepak

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'Real thing better than Le Carre'

A former head of the Mossad has said that novelist John Le Carre's spy stories are "fairly tales compared with the real thing."

Yitzhak Holi, who retired last year as head of Israel's espionage agency, told the weekly *Kateret Rasht* that he had read Le Carre's novels and considered the real espionage world more exciting.

"All these stories are fairy tales compared with the real thing," Holi

was quoted as saying. "The imaginativeness I witnessed in our operations surpasses everything described in the (Le Carre) books."

Holi criticized the British writer's latest novel, *The Little Drummer Girl*, about the undercover war between Israeli agents and Palestinian terrorists. He considered it anti-Israeli slander, despite Le Carre's strongly stated support for the Jewish state.

Pentecostalist here

Lydia Vashchenko, the Soviet Pentecostalist who spent nearly four years in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, arrived in Israel last week.

Vashchenko, her parents, two sisters and two other members of the sect entered the embassy in June 1978. She left the embassy a year ago in January following a hunger strike protesting the Soviet refusal to allow her to emigrate.

At mid-week, the six remaining Pentecostals left the embassy for Siberia, where they will apply for exit permits to emigrate to Israel.

Vashchenko was reported by Danny Smith, her spokesman, as pleased to be in Israel, but has no definite plans about her future. She is in Israel on a three-month tourist visa.

Ban on film

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The Association said the ban is an attack on the freedom of expression.

Maccabi takes hoopster cup

Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — For all their disappointment in the European Cup, Ralph Klein and Tzi Brudie, Maccabi Tel Aviv's departing coaches, were given a fitting send-off last week when their team again came out on top to win the State Basketball Cup with a 99-94 triumph over Hapoel Tel Aviv at Yehuda stadium.

President Yitzhak Navon presented the Cup to the winners.

Hapoel Tel Aviv produced one of their best games of the season and held Maccabi all the way. Scores were level pegging until a three-minute drought period afflicted Hapoel ten minutes from the end.

They had been leading 66-65 when Berkowitz and Zimmerman ran up twelve devastating points — from unexpected angles — without reply.

Hapoel were unlabeled by the deficit. Bravely, they took the game by the throat, threatened Maccabi's hegemony, and gradually sneaked to within a single point of the Maccabi lead. Then Lavi Mercer who had had a tremendous match missed an easy shot at a key moment. Zimmerman steadied things again and Maccabi held off the gallant challenge.

The clean last running game brought to a fitting climax the best season ever of local basketball.

Klein paid generous tribute to Hapoel's "great fight." Asked why he was leaving Maccabi to take up an appointment in West Germany Klein said "I've given the maximum. I feel I can't contribute anything more to Maccabi's further success. My thanks go to our loyal fans who have contributed so much to the club's achievements."

Top Scorers: Maccabi — Zimmerman 32, Perry Berkowitz 25, Perry Brudie 21, Hapoel — Mercer 31, Walker 22, Ransay 20.

Rates of exchange

	IS
April 14, 1983	
U.S. dollar	40.6998
British sterling	62.4945
German mark	16.6905
French franc	5.5643
Swiss franc	14.8067
Swedish krona	19.8033
Norwegian krone	5.4223
Danish krone	5.6850
Japanese yen	4.6964
Canadian dollar	7.4933
Australian dollar	32.9831
South African rand	35.3213
Belgian franc (10)	37.2301
Austrian schilling (10)	23.7407
Italian lire (1,000)	2.8016
Japanese yen (100)	17.0485



Defence Minister Moshe Arens visits a wounded IDF soldier at Haila's Rambam Hospital. (Yossi Shaulim, Paul Meling)



President Yitzhak Navon greets Druse Sheikh Labih Abu-Rukon, who was sworn in last week as a religious court judge. (Rahamim Israeli)



Jewish schoolboys from Hod Hasharon meet with their Arab counterparts at Baka al-Gharbiya yesterday. (JPPA)

Syria linked to Sartawi killing

HIRSH GOODMAN

Post Defence Correspondent

There are clear indications that the assassination of Issem Sartawi at the Socialist International meeting in Portugal on April 10, was coordinated with the Syrians, according to sources. While the actual killing was carried out by Sahri Banna's (Abu Nidal) organization, the announcement claiming credit for the murder came from the group's Damascus headquarters and not from the main office in Iraq.

The main purpose behind the assassination of the PLO moderate, according to analysts, was to impress upon PLO chairman Yasser Arafat that PLO moderation had gone too far, as had the organization's "tilting" with the Hussein-American axis, working toward talks with Israel.

Syria shares Banna's aim in this event and since 1980, when Banna opened an office in Damascus (despite hostile relations between Syria and Iraq) there have been signs of growing co-operation between Syrian intelligence and the renegade Palestinian group.

After his split from Fatah to form Revolutionary Fatah in 1974, Banna worked almost exclusively with the Iraqis. His organization has claimed responsibility for seven assassinations of PLO moderates since 1977, and carried out an attack on the Iranian Embassy in London three years ago on behalf of Baghdad.

Dry Bones



His group was also reportedly responsible for the shooting of Israeli ambassador Shlomo Argov in London last June.

Included in Banna's list of victims is Sirid Hinnami (PLO representative in London, January 4, 1978); Ali Yassin (PLO representative in Kuwait, June 15, 1978); Ezzedine Kalak (PLO representative in Paris, August 3, 1978).

Each of the persons killed was a moderate, openly identified with Arafat, and usually involved in PLO contacts with the Israeli left. In almost all instances, Iraqi diplomatic pouches were made available to Banna's emissaries, and Iraqi embassies provided both safe houses and cover.

Sartawi was buried last week in the "Martyrs Cemetery" in Amman.

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Two chief rabbis condemn violence

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's two chief rabbis last week fulfilled a promise to Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek and issued a call against violence in the capital.

Kolek had called on Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Elihu and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, who were elected last month, to ask them to use their influence to prevent violence by religious zealots and by religious-nationalist elements. Jerusalem Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shalom Mashash and Yitzhak Rubag, chairman of the Jerusalem Religious Council, were also at the meeting.

Late last week Kolek had a similar meeting with leaders in Enkl Jerusalem to complain about rock-throwing by Arab youths. The Arab representatives in turn complained about the Birkat Avraham Yeshiva in Rehov Hagai in the Moslem

Quarter of the Old City.

At the meeting with the rabbis, Kolek asked them to press the yeshiva to stop what he called "anti-religious activities" by its students.

He cited "rock-throwing, nighttime disturbances, and harassment of neighbors" by the yeshiva students, and the rabbis agreed that "something must be done to move the yeshiva out of the Old City."

Since Kolek's meeting with Arab leaders from the Moslem Quarter and its yeshiva neighbors, there has been no stone-throwing on Rehov Hagai, police sources said. The police arrested eight students two weeks ago during a stone-throwing melee with Arab neighbors. They are now out on bail, awaiting trial.

In another meeting Kolek warned community leaders of Shufat and Beit Hunina, northern suburbs of Jerusalem, that if they don't put

an end to stone-throwing along the road to Neve Ya'acov, "the police and army will."

Kolek's adviser on Arab affairs, Maurice Zilka, said the mayor "does not believe the religious Jews when they say that children throw stones, and he doesn't believe the Arab adults when they say that it's only children who throw stones."

Kolek last week addressed a crowd of about 5,000 protesting against violence by Jewish zealots in Jerusalem. A skull-capped 44-year-old immigrant spat in the mayor's face after the speech. After a tussle with the police, the man, who resides in Kiryat Arba, told his interrogators that "God gave him the strength" to attack the mayor.

The demonstration was called by friends of Dr. Uzi Ritten, the Hebrew University geneticist who was seriously injured when his car was stoned in the capital's Geula neighbourhood recently.

Living standards in Tel Aviv drop

By CAROL COOK
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The population of Tel Aviv is getting older and poorer, marring less, having fewer children, and divorcing more frequently, according to the Statistical Yearbook for 1982, recently published by the municipality's Centre for Economic and Social Research. The book paints a picture of a city in a slump, with young people moving away, retail shops closing down, and fewer new buildings going up.

The total population of Tel Aviv was 329,500 at the end of 1981, a drop of 1.6 per cent from 1980. An exodus to the suburbs has been going on for about a decade, and Tel Aviv now contains only 8.3 per cent of Israel's total population, compared with 11.6 per cent in 1972.

Young people with families have been prominent among those leaving, resulting in a large proportion (17.2 per cent) of the city's residents falling in the over 65 age group.

Tel Aviv families are also less affluent than their counterparts in Haifa and Jerusalem.

Tel Aviv families also suffered more from inflation, losing four per cent of their buying power since 1971, while the income of the rest of the country, relative to fixed prices, remained steady.

Other symptoms of economic malaise were a marked decrease in building starts over the past five years and a 15 per cent decline in the number of retail businesses operating in the city. Wholesalers, banks, and insurance companies, however, are growing in number.

AIDS disease in Israel

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The deadly disease known as AIDS has established a bridgehead in Israel, according to Prof. Dan Michaeli, head of Ichilov Hospital.

"We have definitely diagnosed five cases, and we expect that there are others," he said last week. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome has proved fatal to several hundred Americans.

Although the five known cases in Israel do not seem much, Michaeli noted it was considerable compared to American figures.



President-elect Chaim Herzog is measured for his likeness to be displayed in the wax-works museum in Tel Aviv's Shalom-Mayer Tower. (Israel Sun)

Unique children's home

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A unique home for 144 disadvantaged children was dedicated last week in Jerusalem's Gilo quarter in a ceremony attended by hundreds of American Mizrahi Women from here and abroad. The home will be staffed by 12 specially trained, live-in couples.

Child Haven, also called Beit Hyeled, was built through \$4 million in contributions from the organization's 79,000 members. It is named for Alfred and Frances Frisch.

According to Roselle Silberstein, national chairman of American Mizrahi Women, the institution is based on a "new concept in social work."

The building, designed by David Cassut, is airy, colourful and sunny. It has 12 separate units,

each of which includes an apartment in which the surrogate parents and their own children live. Attached to these flats are three rooms, each designed for four children.

The youngsters, aged four-and-a-half through 14, come from broken and problem homes.

The surrogate parents include new immigrants from the West, native Israelis, and a number of couples who themselves grew up in disadvantaged homes.

Dozens of children from the outside will attend Child Haven's kindergarten during the day. Over 300 Mizrahi women from the U.S. arrived specially for the ceremony.

The entrance to the home is decorated by a sculpture by Chaim Gross, who came from the U.S. for the ceremony.

Residential centre for alcoholics

By LEA LEVAVI

RAMAT GAN. — The country's first residential treatment centre for alcoholics officially opened in this Tel Aviv satellite town last week. It will provide treatment for alcoholics whose physical and mental conditions make ambulatory care impossible. The centre has been treating alcoholics on an ambulatory basis since December, 1982.

Of the 32 patients treated so far,

four had to leave the programme because of their poor physical condition, four more dropped out, 11 completed treatment (and are so far keeping away from drink) and the rest are still being treated.

Professionals treating alcoholics say there are about 10,000 in Israel, only about 25 per cent of whom have come for treatment. There are 10 ambulatory treatment centres for alcoholics operating around the country.

Avraham Yoffe, soldier and head of Nature Authority

Thousands of mourners attended the funeral at Ramat Hasharon last week of Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Yoffe, head of Israel Nature Reserves Authority, who died on April 11 after a long illness. He was 69.

He was buried with full military honours. Among the mourners were Prime Minister Menachem Begin, President-elect Chaim Herzog, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf Rafael Eitan.

Yoffe was born at Yavniel in Lower Galilee, where his parents had farmed since 1906. Avraham grew up on the farm and received his early education in Yavniel.

At 16, while still at school, Yoffe joined the Hagana. When the 1936 Arab riots began, he enlisted in the Settlement Police units which guarded villages and kibbutzim in the Beit She'an area. He later joined Orde Wingate's Night Squads, becoming a platoon commander. When World War II broke out, Yoffe joined the British Army's First Palestine Light Anti-Aircraft Battery and served in Cyprus.

Afterwards, he fought in the Western Sahara with the Service Corps. Demobilized with the rank of captain in 1946, he immediately rejoined the Hagana.

During the War of Independence, Yoffe fought Iraqi units in the Beit She'an valley and participated in the capture of Nazareth and the liberation of Galilee. He was wounded when the jeep he was driving struck a mine.

In 1950 Yoffe became the Commanding Officer of the Golani Brigade. During the 1956 Sinai Campaign, he commanded the famous Ninth Brigade which captured Sharm el-Sheikh. In 1959 he



was OC Southern Command and in 1962 OC Northern Command.

When the cabinet set up the Nature Reserves Authority in 1964, Yoffe was appointed chairman. He left the army in November 1964, after 24 years of active service.

Yoffe froze Haifa's development plans, which would have endangered the Carmel park area, and assured the preservation of Harshat Tal and many other natural treasures.

Among his achievements were the 1977 opening of the Hai Bar Biblical Wildlife Park adjoining Kibbutz Yotvata, in the south, and the restoration of wildlife in the Hula Valley.

He formed the Green Patrols with the task of protecting state lands and nature reserves.

Yoffe was a leader of the Land of Israel Movement, which eventually joined the Likud for the 1973 elections. He was subsequently elected to the Knesset and served until 1977. He opposed withdrawal from the Sinai.

Yoffe is survived by his wife Aviva, two daughters and a son. A.Z.

Scientists charge deception in anti-evolution congress

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A group of biologists from the Hebrew University and the Weizmann Institute has accused the organizers of a recent conference on evolution of attempting to deceive several public bodies about the true nature of the gathering to get funding.

The scientists recently wrote a letter of protest to the Education Ministry, the National Council for Research and Development and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities demanding that they retroactively withdraw their support for the conference.

The First Congress on Inquiries into the Origin of Life and Evolution was organized by a group of Orthodox scientists from Ben-Gurion University with the aim of demonstrating that the theory of evolution has no scientific basis.

The scientists who sent the letter, and who attended the conference, said that "the conference did not

deal scientifically with the problem. Most of the lectures were devoted to denying the theory of evolution in principle... and to advancing the notion that the biblical account of the origin of life is factual."

They wrote that the organizers "disguised religious and metaphysical arguments in scientific garb... not only to mislead the unsuspecting audience, but mainly to mislead the bodies which fund scientific gatherings."

They also said that it would be "disastrous" for science-teaching in the schools if non-rational theories are presented as science.

The letter was signed by Prof. Patricia Smith, Prof. Rafael Falk, Prof. Amram Ronen and Dr. Uzi Ritten of the Hebrew University; and by Prof. Shneur Lipson of the Weizmann Institute.

Ritten was recently hospitalized with severe head injuries after his car was stoned on the Sabbath in an ultra-Orthodox neighbourhood in Jerusalem.

More than 1,000 young UJA visitors arrive

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Over 1,000 young Jews from 78 communities around the U.S. have arrived here to join in Israel's 35th Independence Day celebration.

The group, called *Yachad* (Together), is this year's largest

United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Mission. For about 900 of them, it will be their first visit. Since the Lebanon war began last summer, the UJA has brought about 5,000 American Jews to Israel.

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Eitan's answer to stone-throwers

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The answer to Arab stone-throwing in Judea and Samaria "should be 10 new Jewish settlements for each such incident," outgoing Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf Rafael Eitan recommended last week in his farewell meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Eitan and Labour Party dove Yossi Sarid engaged in an acrimonious exchange, calling each other "liar." Eitan also read what was described as a vitriolic poem dedicated to Sarid.

Eitan told the committee that he sees no reason why stone-throwing incidents in Judea and Samaria cannot be stopped. "All we need to do is carry on with our settlement effort and increase it. When 100 settlements are established between Nahalut and Jerusalem, there will be no stones thrown at Jews there."

According to some sources Eitan also said: "When we have settled the land all the Arabs will be able to do about it will be to scurry around life in the shadows of a bottle."

The altercation between Eitan and Sarid developed when the chief of staff objected to criticism of him for reducing the sentences of soldiers accused of killing PLOs in the Litani Operation. Eitan argued that his critics were "very selective in their outrage. When the accused were of their own, they kept mum and failed to protest."

He was referring in a case when an officer "from the leftists' camp, from one of the Mupam kibbutzim" and three of his soldiers were accused of killing two PLOs.

Sarid argued heatedly that Eitan was being "deliberately misleading. The officer in question was acquitted. Eitan is purposely striving to impart a false impression."

At this point the chief of staff explained: "You are a liar." He explained that though charges against the officer were dropped, the soldiers involved in the incident were sentenced and that he had reduced the sentence. "But Sarid and his friends saw fit to raise an outcry in this particular case, as distinct from the others."

Sarid retorted: "You are not telling the truth and if you want to use the precise term, then I'll tell you that you are a liar."

Eitan then recited an uncompromising poem he had written about "those who criticize and enrage like Sarid." It was dedicated to Sarid with "all due respect and contempt." MKs who attended the meeting could not quite the verse verbatim, but some did recall in rhyme about "the smell of munure that comes from one who hops in his tail."

Sarid told Eitan that he hopes he is a "better carpenter than a poet."

(Eitan has said he would devote himself to farming and carpentry when he retires from military service.)

Haim Druckman, of the National Religious Party, told Eitan that "despite all that has been said, the people of this country love you."

Herut's Yosef Rom, the acting committee chairman, spoke of Eitan as "not only one of the best chiefs of staff the IDF has ever had, but also without a doubt one of the most popular and beloved officers this army ever produced."

A group of 18 MKs from Labour, Mupam, Shinui and the Citizens' Rights Movement have written to Defence Minister Moshe Arens demanding that the rebuke Eitan for his remarks concerning West Bank Arabs.

Arens, asked last week about Eitan's remarks, said he did not want to criticize the chief of staff at the end of his term, and described him as a "national hero."

Support for more Israel aid

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — In a political signal to the Reagan administration, a congressional subcommittee last week increased economic and military assistance to Israel in the pending foreign aid bill.

The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, chaired by Democrat Lee Hamilton of Indiana, raised the grant portion of the aid to Israel in the 1984 fiscal year by \$365 million over the original Reagan administration recommendation.

The increase now goes before the full committee. Separate Senate approval is also required.

The Reagan administration had

proposed that Israel receive \$785m. in economic grants. The House subcommittee increased that sum to \$850m.

On the military side, the administration had recommended that Israel receive a total of \$1.7b. of which \$550m. would be in grants, the remaining \$1.15b. in loans. The House panel retained the same overall level but raised the grant portion to \$850m., or exactly half of the total military package.

Despite strong administration objections, the Congress last year also raised overall economic and military aid levels to Israel. Based on last week's initial action, another substantial increase may be in the works this year as well.

3,939 homes up for sale in the administered areas

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The best Israeli answer to Jordan King Hussein's decision not to join the peace talks is for thousands of Israelis to settle in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Benzion Rubin told reporters here last week.

At a press conference previewing a campaign to attract thousands of families to these areas, Rubin said that the public interest so far leads him to believe that there will be between 10,000 and 15,000 families interested in the 3,939 apartments and "build-your-own-home" plots now available.

Rubin said this is the largest project of its kind ever undertaken by the government, Jewish Agency and the settlement (kibbutz and moshav) movements. Geographically, it will include Judea, Samaria, the southern part of Mount Hebron, Kitzif in the Gaza strip — and the Jordan Valley.

Prices of the flats vary widely from IS1 million in IS3m. according to size and location. Special mortgages and loans will be available of up to IS360,000.

Zehur Gindler, director of the Centre for Development Towns, said there will also be efforts to attract entrepreneurs to open firms in

these areas, to create employment opportunities for the new settlers.

Yisrael Harel, representing the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said he hopes the goal of 100,000 settlers will be reached a year before the end of the government's term. There are already about 30,000 residents in the territories he said, another 15,000 are expected to move in this summer, and the campaign is expected to bring about another 20,000 within the next 18 months.

He believes the next jump from 60,000 to 100,000 will come quickly in view of rising public interest, whether for ideological reasons or to improve housing and quality of life.

David Rudge adds:

The bulk of the Electric Corporation's massive project supplying electricity power to Samaria has been completed after four years of work and at a cost of IS360 million.

Nineteen Arab towns and villages and 15 Jewish settlements have so far been linked to the national grid. The necessity of having electricity had overcome Arab political objections to the source of supply. The Electric Corporation's Jerusalem district manager, Paul Seidman, told reporters during a tour of Samaria.

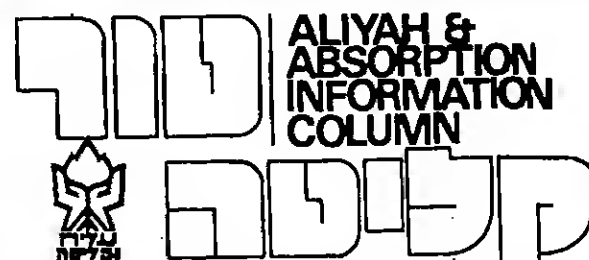
Tel Aviv woman held for spying

TEL AVIV (Himl). — A 35-year-old local woman, arrested on suspicion of spying and having contact with an enemy agent abroad, was remanded last month for a further 15 days. The details of the case were released for publication only last week.

Bruria Green has previously been hospitalized in a psychiatric ward

and the magistrate court judge ordered that she be examined in the Bat Yam hospital during her remand.

The woman denied the charges, claiming she had been drugged, held incommunicado, and been beaten by her interrogators.



Readers can contact us by writing to the ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS DIVISION, Department of Information for Olim, P.O.B. 616, Jerusalem.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO LIVE IN ISRAEL?

PART I — THE MONTHLY BUDGET

This is the first instalment of our updated, 3-part series of articles on the cost of living in Israel. In this instalment, Part I, a breakdown is given of the monthly budget. Part II provides information on the prices of cars and household appliances including taxes and customs duties on such items and the exemptions available for new olim. Part III deals with approximate costs of purchasing and renting an apartment throughout most of Israel during the early part of 1983.

All prices and expenses are quoted in US dollars rather than Israeli currency because the buying power of the former remains fairly stable against the fluctuations of the shekel and the constant price increases in the country. While our figures are up to date for March 1983, it should be recalled that all of them are approximate.

THE MONTHLY BUDGET

Following is a breakdown in round figures of the average budget, which will enable olim to estimate the approximate monthly costs for their own households allowing for their personal preferences, individual life styles and, of course, their financial situation.

Household Costs, including food, cleaning supplies, minor daily expenses and moderate home entertaining, can now come to between \$260 and \$400 a month for a household of 2 or 3 persons and between \$450 and \$550 for a family of 5-7 persons. Prices are practically uniform throughout the country, except in some outlying areas where freight charges may add to the cost of foods which have no fixed price.

Meat and poultry, both frozen and fresh, have substantially gone up in price, but eggs have remained the same in dollars and cost 7 cents each for the best quality. Fresh fish is slightly down, at just over \$6 a kilo for the best sort, frozen fish costs from \$2.50 to \$6.70 a kilo. A kilo (2.2 pounds) of fresh beef steaks at \$11, going up to \$16 for the best cut (as compared to \$6-\$9 in mid-1981), a kilo of frozen beef steaks \$4-\$8, turkey \$2-\$7.20 a kilo, depending on the part of the bird; frozen chicken is \$2.20-\$8 (compared to an average of \$1.65 in mid-1981), also depending on the part of the bird; fresh whole chickens cost \$4 per kilo; frozen lamb costs around \$8 a kilo. The above prices come from the Coop Supermarket chain which operates on a minimal profit margin. Prices for kosher meat are higher than those quoted above. Vegetables in season are no longer as relatively inexpensive as they used to be, but are still reasonable in price.

Household help has gone up to \$3 and sometimes \$4 an hour, so 4 hours once a week costs \$64 or \$72 a month instead of the \$36 it cost in mid-1981. An additional 10% must be added for the compulsory National Insurance.

House Committees (Duo (Va'd Ba'ail) cover central heating, central hot water, cleaning, gardening, building maintenance, and electricity for staircases and elevators, depending on the building. Whether you are an apartment owner or tenant, the duo are obligatory, the amount depending on the number of apartments in the building, the size of the apartment, the length of the winter and the degree of cold. The latter two factors make Jerusalem once again the most expensive area, especially during the exceptionally long and cold winter of 1982/83, when the average monthly dues were between \$50 and \$100.

House insurance premiums have just been altered to include automatic linkage to the cost-of-living index and now stand at 1.8 per mille of the value of the property, including pipes, drains, electric installations, doors and windows. For flat owners, that means an annual \$16 for each \$10,000 of the value.

For apartment contents and personal belongings the annual rate — also automatically linked to the cost-of-living index — is 9.75 per mille, or \$9.75 for each \$10,000 of the value. The total of the respective premiums 30% must be added for various charges, including stamp, to arrive at the cost for the year if payment is made in cash. Payment can be made in six instalments, which adds another 30% to the bill.

Municipal Tax (Arnona) varies according to location, type of residential area and apartment size. In Jerusalem, the most expensive area, the average monthly payment for a two-bedroom apartment now lies between \$17 and \$23; for 3 bedrooms (i.e. 4-4½ rooms) between \$20 and \$26; for 4 bedrooms, \$27 or more.

Electricity for households of 2-4 persons making normal use of

their appliances now comes to between \$17 and \$30 and may be up to \$10 more for larger families. The bill will be much higher if electric heaters are used regularly or cooking is done exclusively on electricity.

Telephone bills, not including overseas calls, continue to be around \$20 for smaller families, but are likely to be double that amount in families with teenagers.

Gas is the usual means of cooking in Israel and is delivered in individual containers to each household in older buildings but provided centrally in newer housing. The monthly outlay is \$7-\$8 for a couple and close to double that amount for families with children. If gas room heaters are installed for additional heating in the winter, the bill will increase substantially during those months. A family of 8 using gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying spends about \$80 a month the year round, plus around \$1,000 for four months of heating alone, which averages out over the year to approximately \$126 a month.

Water bills range from around \$8 a month for the smaller households to \$12 for larger families, and a good deal more if you have your own garden.

TV & Radio Licence fees are combined and paid in three instalments. The monthly average currently works out at just under \$3, but a hefty rise is expected for the 1983/84 fiscal year. Car Registration is paid annually in one lump sum and currently works out at a monthly \$6 for cars with small engines and \$12 for those with larger ones; now models cost a little more. The annual car radio licence comes to less than a dollar a month, but both car registration and car radio licence fees are slated to go up considerably this spring. It should be noted that licensing fees and the cost of utilities are uniform throughout the country.

Car Insurance during the 1982/83 financial year worked out to a monthly \$23-\$30 for a medium-sized used car for compulsory and full comprehensive coverage, including a no-claims reduction, larger cars, about \$40 a month. The 1982/83 insurance rate for a new car is calculated at 3.7% of the market price, with a 10% reduction if insured for one driver only and a maximum no-claims reduction of 30%. New olim entitled to a no-claims bonus must submit documentation to this effect from their previous insurance company abroad.

Car Expenses among the families interviewed for this article varied between \$85 and \$180 a month for petrol (gas) and servicing, not including major repairs, depending on the amount of local or out of town driving. Most averaged 1,000 kms (625 miles) a month. This compares to \$40 to \$130 a month among the same families in mid-1981 and reflects the continual rise of both the petrol prices and garage service charges.

Clothing expenses vary widely. One older couple found that their clothing purchases during the year added up to a monthly average of \$40 (instead of \$20 in mid-1981); and for two other couples \$100 (instead of \$50-\$75 in mid-1981). Parents spent about half the amount on themselves and the remainder on their children, or a monthly average of \$35-\$85. In all cases, old and young, footwear was the largest single item.

There are factory outlets in the main cities and some of the larger towns selling clothing at a 20%-30% discount. The cost of Education depends on the type of school a child attends. Compulsory kindergarten starting at the age of 5 is free, as is elementary and secondary education, secular or religious, at all State schools. Fees are charged for nursery school up to the age of 5 and later again for university and post-high school vocational training. Day-care centers (run by WIZO or Na'amat, the Pioneer Women's Organization) accept infants between 4 and 15 months from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at a monthly fee of up to \$88. The fees are set by the government, which also provides subsidies. This also applies to the slightly higher monthly fee for children between 15 months and 5 years enrolled in these day-care centers. Private nursery schools for 2-5 year-olds now charge about \$75 a month for 8 mornings a week less compared to \$30-\$40 in mid-1981. Municipal kindergarten fees are a good deal less. A private *metapela*, a nurserymaid looking after an infant 5 mornings a week at her own home, now costs about \$75 a month. Home care for 8 hours daily, 5 days a week now costs about \$110 a month in the Jerusalem area, though in the Tel Aviv area the cost can be as high as a monthly \$270 for 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. 5 days a week. The going price in Jerusalem for a *metapela* coming to the child's home for 8 hours daily, 5 times a week to currently \$160-\$220.

At state-subsidized tuition-free vocational high schools, which teach such subjects as computer science, electronics, mechanics, architecture, clerical work and fashion, the extra students have to pay may come to around \$8 a month. University fees for the 1982/83 academic year have doubled from the previous year to \$60 a month. Depending on the faculty and year, books can easily add another \$30 a month, unless a student is willing to wait his turn in the long queues of the universities' public libraries.

THE MONTHLY ADDITION

To arrive at an understated figure for average monthly expenditures, certain items have not been included because they are highly individual and not necessarily essential to Western-style living in Israel. Hence private school fees have been omitted, while the extras for books, sports and excursions are included. Donations to charities and institutions; endowment funds, life insurance, and other savings plan payments are excluded as not being part of daily needs and dependent on extra cash available. Children's Leisure Time Activities may come to \$35 for one youngster's music or other private lessons a month. Books and

toys can be \$10-\$40 a month. School books, after-school and sports activities and excursions can add \$16-\$40 per month. The cost of Cultural Activities during the 1982/83 concert and theater season has barely changed in dollar terms. A subscription for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra was \$70-\$133 for a medium to good seat; for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra around \$70; for the Jerusalem Theater \$26-\$46. Single tickets for the Israel Philharmonic are about \$7 for the cheapest and about \$19 for the best seat. Jerusalem Theater and Jerusalem Symphony concert tickets come to roughly \$9 each.

A cinema ticket now costs close to \$3. Annual membership for the museums are up considerably, but one must remember that these fees are really in lieu of donations. They come to about \$15 per person and close to \$25 for the whole family, with additional charges, reduced for members, ranging from less than a dollar to about \$5 for museum lectures, concerts, film shows and other performances. Annual newspaper subscriptions have gone up by 26%, and the big dailies are now charging \$180-\$200.

Health insurance through any of the local health funds poses no problem for the under-80s. Of the families interviewed for this article, one household of 5 now 7½ years in Israel, with 3 children between the ages of 6 and 11 and the father self-employed, pays just under \$68 a month. A family of 4 with 4 children between 8 and 13 years old, pays \$25, with the annual amount less paid by the father's employer. Among the olim principles whose children already have their own health insurance, monthly fees range from \$28 to \$80, depending on the length of time they have been members, not what age and which fund they joined. The various health funds have different rates and offer different services.

Problems do arise for olim pensioners if they have sons or daughters living in Israel, they may be able to join the same health fund subject to certain conditions. Women over 57 and men over 62 who are olim and not eligible for membership in the various health funds because of their age, can join a special plan of the Hatzarit's Kupat Holim Klali at a monthly fee of roughly \$29 for a single person and about \$45 for a family. However, they will have to participate with 15% in the costs of hospitalization.

During their first 3 years in the country, olim pensioners can join a special Ministry of Immigrant Absorption health plan which provides full coverage during that period for a monthly fee the exact amount depending on the financial situation of the applicant and whether they are single or a couple. The maximum monthly fee has remained roughly \$45, and this amount is the same for a single person or a couple. Where possible, some olim pensioners from western countries have obtained their private health insurance policies with additional coverage to include Israel. This however is relatively expensive.

It must be pointed out to prospective olim with major medical problems that they may not be able to join any of Israel's health funds. Therefore, it is advisable for them to take up this question with the *aliyah* representative (*shahach*) BEFORE moving to Israel.

Childcare fees are likely to be less of a budget item for pensioners, but can be substantial for families with growing children. Nevertheless, the monthly outlay of older couples appears to have gone up from the previous \$10 to a current \$20. In families where 2 or more children need regular orthodontic care, it can come close to \$100 a month.

At current prices, having a tooth capped or crowned can come to \$400, while a filling can cost \$28. Mortgage payments vary widely as old unlinked loans have become cheap due to continued currency devaluation. More recent mortgages usually add from \$100—\$300 to the monthly budget, depending on the size, type and location of the home and whether it was bought on the private market or through Ministry of Absorption channels. Rental payments vary widely. More information on this subject will appear in the column on Housing (Part III of this series).

MISCELLANEOUS

Most households set aside an arbitrary sum for unforeseen minor purchases and repairs, small gifts, pocket money for the children and other odds and ends. Varying from \$15 to \$55 a month among the families interviewed, these amounts are included in the monthly budget. None of those families pay the monthly tuition of their student sons and daughters, who all earn enough from part-time work to cover their fees.

Excluding the items mentioned above, monthly expenditures at the time of writing came to an average of \$800 to \$860 for a family with 1 child still living at home, and \$1000 to \$1300 for a family with 3-5 school-age children. This represents an increase of just over 10% since mid-1981.

Monthly living costs for older couples, however, have risen by about 30% since mid-1981, and in dollar terms now come to anywhere between \$800 and \$1000.

All the families interviewed own a car and live in well-appointed 3 to 6-room apartments in good neighborhoods. New and prospective olim planning to settle in rural areas should note that living in a *moshav ovdim*, a workers' village (usually agricultural), costs the same as in urban areas. Living in a *moshav shitufi*, a collective village, or a *kibbutz* is a good deal cheaper.

(S.L.)

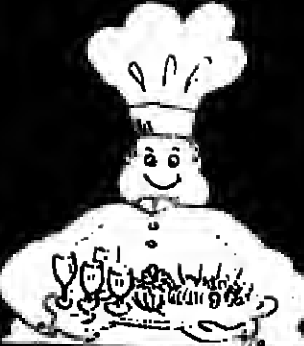
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Arafat's dwindling options

David Bernstein assesses the possible consequences of Jordan's decision last week not to become a partner to the Reagan peace initiative because of King Hussein's failure to reach agreement with the PLO on a common approach. One result could be that the PLO, after losing its military base in Lebanon, might now also become politically irrelevant and revert to unbridled terror as a last resort.

his rejectionists and risk the break-up of the PLO without such a move from the Americans.

And chances are that the wily king knows this only too well.

FOR ALL THAT, Hussein appears to have made considerable political capital by having done his best to go along with the American initiative, even though he may well have doubted its viability.

It is also possible that Hussein calculated the political benefits of precipitating an open confrontation between Washington and Jerusalem in the unlikely event that the PLO granted him a mandate in negotiable Israel would then have been isolated, the sole obstruction to the Reagan Plan.

And in the even more unlikely event that Washington succeeded in getting Israel out of the West Bank and Gaza and returning the territories to Arab rule — even then he would have reaped a political bonanza.

For Hussein's most ghastly nightmare must be that the Palestinians will become so discouraged by Israel's continued hold on the West Bank and Gaza that they will look to his own kingdom for the realization of their national aspirations.

THE DILEMMA to which Hussein is torn is a development was all too apparent in last week's announcement in detail the deliberations of the three-hour emergency cabinet meeting chaired by Hussein himself.

The announcement stressed Jordan's persistent warnings about the dangers of Israel's practices in the West Bank and Gaza, particularly its "systematic policy of evacuating the inhabitants of the West Bank to change the demographic composition of the occupied Arab territories."

And it ended with Jordan's concern "to confront the *de facto* annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip" which "forces us to



Yasser Arafat... "a severe blow to his prestige."

take all steps necessary to safeguard our national security in all its dimensions."

Arab observers have interpreted this as a warning by Jordan that if it is unable to secure Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories through American-led diplomacy, it will opt for unilateral measures to safeguard its own integrity against Palestinian subversion.

Such measures, it has been suggested, could include the closure of the Jordan-West Bank crossings in a bid to prevent a massive influx of disillusioned Palestinians, which would further upset the kingdom's demographic balance (already weighted 60:40 in favour of the Palestinians) and pose a serious threat to Hussein's throne.

There have also been hints that Hussein might choose to wash his hands of the West Bank altogether — even though Sunday's announcement pledged to "continue to provide support for our brothers in the occupied Palestinian territories... remain their faithful brothers, and side with them in their ordeal."

The reference to "the occupied Palestinian territories" is both unusual and revealing in this context — as was the report earlier this week that Hussein might soon hold

new parliamentary elections which would, for the first time, exclude the participation of West Bank residents.

In short, Jordan remains determined to prevent the realization of Ariel Sharon's "Jordan-is-Palestine" concept — either by helping the Palestinians to achieve some form of independent statehood in the West Bank and Gaza through diplomacy, or by protecting itself against any attempt they might make to realize their national aspirations in Jordan itself.

WHILE THERE IS thus no immediate threat to the Hashemite kingdom, the abrupt termination of the PLO dialogue with Jordan at the beginning of this week has left the organization in a state of acute crisis.

Arafat's diplomatic strategy, pursued so vigorously in the face of very considerable opposition from the Syrian-backed radicals in the PLO, has clearly run out of steam.

He was unable to sell this strategy to the PLO's radical elements when the crunch came at the end of last week, and he was unwilling to risk the break-up of the PLO for the sake of a political programme that not only relegated the organization to the sidelines but also had next to no chance of winning the West Bank and Gaza for the Palestinians.

This has undoubtedly been a severe blow to Arafat's prestige and perhaps also to his standing inside the PLO. There can be little doubt that he will be hoping against hope in the days and weeks ahead that a miracle will happen and that Washington will come up with the magic ingredients — PLO recognition and pressure on Israel — which would once again make his strategy viable.

Failing that, Arafat will probably find himself forced to pay lip service to the radicals' call for armed struggle as the only means of liberating Palestine.

He may well survive as the nominal leader of the PLO in such an event, but the balance of power within the organization will undoubtedly have shifted away from the mainstream pragmatists to the Syrian-backed radicals, and he will find himself dancing to their tune just as they have been forced, however reluctantly, to dance to his over the past eight months and more.

It would seem too much to expect that Arafat would be capable of making the kind of imaginative leap President Sadat did in 1977 and unilaterally agree to Washington's minimum conditions for his participation in the peace process — acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the concomitant recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Arafat not only appears to lack the political imagination and courage that characterized Sadat — and eventually cost him his life — but the constraints under which he has to operate are undeniably more powerful and complex than those which bound the late Egyptian leader.

HOW ALL THIS will affect the fate of the PLO remains to be seen. But there is today, probably for the first time since its evacuation from Beirut last August, a clear chance that the PLO may become politically irrelevant.

Denied the convenient base for free action against Israel that it enjoyed in Jordan until 1970 and in Lebanon until last June, the PLO will probably be forced to revert to the desperate, publicity-grubbing but politically wounding acts of unbridled terror that characterized it in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Where this will leave the unfortunate inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza is also unclear.

But between Jordan's determination, to safeguard its political identity, Israel's determination to realize its divine right to Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, Washington's apparent lack of determination to do what is necessary to make its peace initiative work and Arafat's apparent unwillingness to make the grand Sadat-like gesture — it seems that they may well be doomed to become something resembling the chief-of-stuff's "drugged cockroaches" in a West Bank battle.

The writer is The Jerusalem Post's Middle East affairs reporter.

sional ceremony. The House and Senate leadership were invited to address the gathering. Many congressmen and senators were met privately by their constituents among the survivors. Invariably, the subject of Israel arose.

Thus, without much advertisement or fanfare, Israel's cause automatically received recognition, Israeli diplomats were very well aware of the fact.

HUSSEIN'S announcement on the day before the event opened — that he would not represent the Palestinians without the approval of the PLO — served to enhance Israel's status. The Arabs, for a change, were perceived in Washington as the obstacle to peace. Israel was at least temporarily taken off the hook.

(Continued on page 13)

THERE IS NO real tragedy in the "poisoning" masquerade by a few hundred Arab schoolgirls (on the West Bank) with the connivance of fiercely nationalistic doctors, nor should we be surprised by the use which wider Arab circles and governments are making of this masquerade.

In a society marked by deep hostility to Israel, where actual violence is glorified, it is not to be wondered that this kind of "non-violent" struggle is being resorted to. And if the masquerade — as is not unlikely — was actually staged and orchestrated almost from the beginning, this again is understandable: those who organize sabotage and murder will not shrink from staging a tale of poisoning.

As for the lies involved, the Big Lie has been so long an instrument of Arab psychological warfare against Israel that its use in this case

Medieval spectre

By BENJAMIN AKZIN

is almost standard behaviour.

The real tragedy lies in the seriousness with which the "enlightened world" took up the tale. Governments, the "serious" press, "responsible" TV and radio networks, not to speak of the UN Security Council and other international bodies, all set about with a serious mien to "investigate" the poisoning reports. Possibly some of these only pretend to have taken the matter seriously while utterly disbelieving the tale — which is almost worse, because this attitude lends *prima facie* credibility to something known to them to be false.

Accusations that Jews were

deliberately engaged in poisoning non-Jews were a prominent feature of the darkest Middle Ages. As such, they fell into disrepute and were disdainfully discarded centuries ago.

In a way, they were even more disgusting than the blood libel: the latter accused Jews of killing individuals, while the poisoning libel accused them of trying to kill multitudes. The Tsnir regime, which did not hesitate to revive the blood libel early in this century, did not dare to raise that other hoary spectre.

And now, near the century's end, the medieval tale is revived, and the

enlightened world, instead of scornfully rejecting it, does it the honour of "investigating" its truth.

ARE WE to be grateful for small favours? The Jerusalem Post's Washington correspondent tells us that opinion in America does not believe that the Israeli government has sanctioned the poisoning but wonders whether some "Jewish funnies" didn't do it on their own. Thanks, indeed. It reminds me of a talk I had 60 years ago, in 1922, in Vienna, with a reactionary Russian *émigré* who said he was sure that not all Jews killed Christian children so as to use their blood for Passover, or even knew about it — "but didn't some secret sects, the Hasidim, do it?"

If this reticence by the Western world proves anything, it shows that there is still some demand for the Jew as a demonic image. And

that this demand is stronger today than it was 100 years ago.

And therein lies the tragedy. I know. The secretary-general of the United Nations, the International Red Cross, the World Health Organization, the Atlanta Centre — all will report something to the effect that "no positive evidence of poisoning has been found."

But whether for political reasons — for in today's world it is inconceivable to call a spade a spade where Arabs are concerned — or for other reasons, they will all word their findings so that those who want to believe the tale will be able to continue doing so.

And therein, again, lies the

tragedy. The writer is emeritus professor of political science and constitutional law at the Hebrew University.

IT IS WRITTEN

"I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth."

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TWO SUPPOSEDLY unrelated events unfolded in Washington this past week, the Reagan Administration's reaction to King Hussein's refusal — at least for the time being — to join the U.S.-sponsored peace process and the massive American outpouring of Holocaust survivors. The two happenings were, in fact, closely connected, as quickly became apparent to reporters trying to cover both stories.

Organizers of the Holocaust gathering, which brought thousands of survivors and their children to Washington, were always careful, in their public statements, to characterize it as a non-political event. But from the start, those involved in the operation fully recognized the automatic political spotlight for Israel the event would have in the U.S. capital and, indeed, around the world.

The U.S. pressure eases

Israel, after all, was born out of the Holocaust, and in the U.S., it always has been widely accepted that not all of those six million Jews would have perished had Israel existed in the 1930s and 1940s. Even America had shut its doors to Jewish refugees in those days.

Israeli officials and sympathetic American Jewish political activists agreed that raising public awareness of the Holocaust — talking about the fact that one-third of world Jewry was destroyed during those few years — was bound to generate heightened sympathy and support for Israel. Only the most fanatically pro-Arab and anti-Israel advocates could fail to appreciate the relationship.

Wolf Blitzer reports from Washington on how a link was established between the Holocaust memorial services in the U.S. and the latest political developments in the Mid-East.

AT THE SAME time, however, there has been a deliberate effort not to go too far in making the connection. In fact, many survivors have resented raising the spectre of the Holocaust to justify every Israeli policy. Such actions, it has been said, merely cheapen the Holocaust

and the memory of those who died in it.

The organizers of the gathering did not have to press their point for strong U.S. backing for Israel vigorously. That was always Israeli understood.

President Ronald Reagan, who addressed 20,000 people at the Washington Capital Centre at the opening event, appeared visibly moved by what he saw and heard. His wife, Nancy, seemed to have some tears in her eyes as she witnessed the reunion of survivors and their U.S. Army liberators.

Other high-ranking U.S. policymakers were also sensitized to the Holocaust. Vice President George Bush spoke at a congress-

Where was God during the Holocaust?



This question still haunts us 40 years after the event. Rabbi PINCHAS PELI describes attempts to find a religious language to deal with the enormity of the subject.

THE CONTENTION that the Holocaust is without precedent in Jewish history is, it would seem, true — if not from the point of view of the scope of the destruction (whether in absolute or relative terms), then certainly when one considers the explicit declaration of the goal and the precision of the planning that preceded it. From the general, human perspective as well, the Holocaust embodied a thoroughly new combination of elements: for the first time sophisticated technological methods — the pride of the modern era — were used to serve the basest and cruellest designs.

Many argue that the Holocaust is unique, not only because it is the most ugly and powerful incarnation of evil in modern times, but also because it undermines certain accepted theories of historiography, sociology and anthropology. These and other disciplines are only just beginning to come to terms with this fact. Very few feel in all their being the full horror of the atrocities. Very few are driven by a sense of urgency to conceptualize and comprehend the Holocaust, if only to prevent it from happening again. All will agree that this is a most difficult, depressing and repellent task. However, this does not diminish its urgency and necessity. For the believing person, and for faith in general, the need to grapple with one particular problem out of the many involved is imbued with special urgency. This problem is expressed in its simplest form by the question, Where was God during the Holocaust?

THE QUESTION, even in this simplistic and almost naive formulation, is not so simple as it may seem at first glance. Enfolded within it are also the following questions:

1. What was God's role before the event? That is to say, did He take part in the decision to let it occur (if

"a person does not raise his little finger here below without it being decreed from above"? If He did, the question is — why?)
2. Where was God during the Holocaust? In other words, was He there in the midst of the horrors and the terrible suffering? If so, the question then is — how could He have been (since He is "a merciful God")?
3. What was God's role after the Holocaust, that is, now that the world has returned to normal, that daily routine has been restored? Can we go to the synagogue and fulfill His commandments, as if nothing had happened to shake our faith in God since time immemorial? If this is the case — how can it be possible?

FROM THE TIME of the Holocaust, many have tried to avoid these questions. Some sought to do this by removing the Holocaust to another planet, to another plane in time and space. Because of its tremendous existential and emotional impact, it is difficult to conceptualize or consciously to comprehend the Holocaust. There were those who sought, therefore, to set it at a distance, in transfer the whole period between 1938 and 1944 to metaphysical or metaphysical. The very term "Holocaust," in Hebrew *shoah*, helps one to uproot those years from the regular flow of narrative human history. This has recently become a conscious and deliberate repression, and has enabled many to gaze with equanimity at the green grass growing over Theresienstadt and Treblinka.

Borrowing from this metaphysical and metaphysical approach, metaphysics and theology, too, are ready to propose a "demonization" of the Holocaust, or other theories that free God from responsibility for what happened during the Holocaust.

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man and God that is the essence of the Jewish experience from the Bible onwards.

The language we are seeking must address itself to things that actually occurred, events which were part of human history and therefore known to God and in which He participated, actively or passively.

According to any Jewish conception of God, it is impossible to remove Him, for on hour or forever, from history and from the world He has created and in whose existence and fate He is involved. The search for a religious language with which to describe the Holocaust is based on the assumption that it was not mere coincidence, nor even a combination of historical and political circumstances, in the usual "way of the world" — but rather that the Holocaust had meaning for God who sees and knows all. God cannot remain outside the meaning of the Holocaust and in any case not outside the language human beings use to express that meaning or the lack of it.

During the Holocaust and in the years that followed it, many attempts were made to grasp its meaning in religious terms. These attempts can be categorized according to a few archetypal models drawn from the treasure-house of Jewish thought, primarily from the Bible, which may aid us in our search for an appropriate religious language in which to elucidate an approach to the Holocaust.

Between those who are ready to give up in advance any possible use of language and those who are ready to announce that the Holocaust "proves" there is no God — a whole spectrum of religious responses exists. We can present some of the main ones as follows:

MODEL A: The First Adam.

The model here is clear and simple: the formula of sin and punishment. Adam, who sinned by violating God's command, is expelled from the Garden of Eden and is punished. This is a classic pattern which appears frequently in the Bible.

One can raise some immediate objections to this model:

□ Does there exist a sin enormous enough to justify such a punishment as the death of six million human beings, who were gathered together from different countries to be killed only because they shared one characteristic — they were Jews. Therefore, the "sin" that brought retribution upon them must be connected with that one common characteristic — i.e., their Jewishness.

□ If only a part of those who were judged sinned — and how could it be possible for them all to have committed the same sin? — why were the innocent punished?

These two questions — and the hold attempt to apply the model of sin and punishment to the Holocaust — have been answered and commented on in the rabbinical writings and religious literature of the last generation. The answers are not limited to a vague general declaration that "God is just no matter what comes upon us, as we noted wickedly," but point explicitly to identify the sin that led to the destruction. The second objection is answered by citing the well-known principle that when God's anger is kindled, the righteous suffer along with the wicked, and the righteous individual is judged along with the wicked community.

What sin is there that is so serious as to bring on a holocaust? Three are mentioned in this context:

□ The sin of Zionism, i.e., the attempt to hasten the final redemption by immigrating to the land of Israel *en masse* before the coming of the Messiah. The attempt is construed as a breaking of the oath God made the people of Israel swear, that they would not "climb the wall" (or go up to the land of Israel like a wall — i.e., all together), nor rebel against the nations among whom they were dispersed and with whom they lived all the time they were in Exile (*Bab. Talmud, Ketubot 111a*).

The breaking of the oath by the people of Israel caused God to let them become fair game for all, as He on His part was no longer bound to protect them. This idea is developed with passion and in great detail by the Seder Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Teitelbaum. As he presents it in his various books, the issue is clear: because the Jews sought to end the Exile before the appointed time, the Exile "finished them" as punishment for having tried to hasten the process of redemption.

Besides the approach that claims that the sin of Zionism "justifies" the Holocaust both *a priori* and *a posteriori*, we find its exact opposite — indicated in a different example of the "sin and punishment" model:

□ The sin of opposition to Zionism.

According to this approach God remembered the people of Israel and a call went out for them to leave the Exile and immigrate to the land of Israel; yet most Jews did not heed these signs of the coming redemption, and stayed where they were. Since the people did not want to end the Exile, the Exile finished them.

This approach is most vividly expressed in the book, *Happy is the Mother of Sons* (*Levi Yitzhak S'nechali*), by Rabbi Isaac Solomon Teitelbaum. In contrast to the Seder Rebbe's book, written and published some years after the Holocaust, Rabbi Teitelbaum's book was written and printed in Hungary while the Holocaust raged. The author wrote with full knowledge of what was happening; his argument is clear and well supported by numerous citations from midrashic sources and pious texts as well as from historic analysis of the opportunities for returning the land of Israel — which were fatally missed.

The two theses cited above as examples of the "sin and punishment" model are completely antithetical; they are both based on authoritative texts from the halachic and aggadic sources and from ethical and homiletic literature. It is interesting that both were written by learned rabbis raised in the same socio-cultural milieu of Hungarian Jewry. They both wrote what they did out of a deep spiritual urge, after they themselves witnessed and experienced the Holocaust.

Perhaps this last point may somehow attenuate the cruelty inherent in the very act of vindictive God's judgement, justifying what occurred. However, the polar contradiction between the two conceptions of the sin that led to the punishment we call the Holocaust, calls into question the validity of the theological assumptions on which the "sin and punishment" model is based. In spite of this, the model has served as the point of departure for other explanations. We will mention only one more:

□ The sin of assimilation. Those who point in this sin to a direct correlation between the processes of alienation from and denial of Judaism that European Jewry had undergone since the Haskalah

(Enlightenment), and the destruction of that Jewry in the Holocaust. The connection between the two is proven, in this case as well, by citations from traditional sources and attempts to theologize sociological processes.

As an example of the latter, some have seen the principle of "measure for measure" (*midah k'neged midah* — from the divine system of reward and punishment) at work in the fact that the decrees of destruction originated in Germany, the cradle of the European Haskalah; this fact is taken as proof of the organic connection between the sin — assimilation — and its punishment — holocaust.

This argument is to a certain extent parallel to the first two approaches, in that it designates the Exile as the factor that produces the power that destroys those who live in it. This argument, however, is formulated differently from the others: if the Holocaust had not brought about the physical annihilation of the Jews, they would in any case have suffered spiritual annihilation. Rather they die as Jews than have themselves and their children and grandchildren go on living as non-Jews.

This vindication of God's judgement does not remain in the realm of theology but appears also in secular sociological arguments.

A justification of the "punishment," this time without the religious component, can be found in the speech delivered by Isaac Labenkin, the Socialist-Zionist secular ideologist, at the 26th Zionist Congress: "I feared a Holocaust, I knew there would be one. I fear assimilation even more. Is there anything worse than the destruction of the Jews? Assimilation is part of the destruction of the Jews. A Jew who has been killed — has not assimilated."

As with the preceding arguments, one can raise several immediate objections to this one. Did the punishment achieve the intended "effect"? Did assimilation cease or increase after the Holocaust? Did not the Jewish people become much poorer spiritually after the Holocaust?

Every argument based on the "sin and punishment" model places us in the peculiar position elucidated by Eliezer Berkovitz in the foreword to his book, *Faith after the Holocaust*. How can we, who were not in the hell of the death camps, justify what happened, when among those who were there, some did not justify it? And even if there were some who justified it — what they are permitted to do is forbidden to us, since "We are not Job. We are only Job's brother," and the brother of Job cannot speak for Job, can express neither opposition to nor justification of the judgement.

This is perhaps one of the reasons why those who seek a theology of the Holocaust are not satisfied with the model of the First Adam, with the delineation of cause and effect within the framework of "sin and punishment," but seek alternative models.

MODEL B: Cain Kills Abel
God endowed human beings with free choice, with the capacity to choose life and the good or evil and death. This idea was given formal expression in Jewish law: "Free will is bestowed on every human being. If one desires to turn towards the good way and he righteous, he has the power to do so. If one wishes to turn towards the evil way and be wicked, he is at liberty to do so."

What happened in the Holocaust, therefore, is not God's responsibility but rather the responsibility

of man, who used his God-given potential of free choice and chose evil. It was man who set himself up as king of the world, after chasing the God of justice and mercy from it; in the kingdom of man alone, the Holocaust can and did take place.

God asked Cain after he had killed his brother Abel, "What have you done?" But Cain avoided taking responsibility, acted pretentiously and asked in return, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Holocaust is therefore not God's problem but man's; and man refuses to accept the responsibility for his actions. In this manner Abraham Heschel transfers the problem of the Holocaust to the human realm: "Our world seems not unlike a pit of snakes. We did not sink into the pit in 1939, or even in 1933. We had descended into it generations ago, and the snakes have sent their venom into the bloodstream of humanity, gradually paralysing us, numbing nerve after nerve, dulling our minds, darkening our vision... The outbreak of war was no surprise. It came as a long-expected sequel to a spiritual disaster."

In this approach Heschel is faithful to his view that the Bible is not man's theology, a book about God, but rather God's anthropology, God's concern for man. The Holocaust is but another chapter — a dark and painful one — in the divine anthropology. Man has failed again. Cain and Abel came into the world and were given the potential to establish the human race, to build the world, and to live long and well in it — yet instead "Cain rose up against Abel and slew him" (*Gen. 4:8*). The entire guilt lies with Cain.

Yet even the Sages are not willing to accept this argument as a standard. They composed many stories and midrashim around this affair, the first murder in the world. Why did Cain kill Abel, they asked, and tried to discover his motives. And they answered: because of conflicting interests in matters of religion, property, rivalry for a woman and other reasons. But if Cain is guilty (and accepts his punishment), what was the murdered Abel's sin? Why did he die?

If the Nazis exercised their human freedom of choice and chose evil, why were the Jews particularly their victims? Heschel responds that the Jewish people is "God's stake in this world," witness to God's presence in the world and is, therefore, the first to be attacked by those who deny His presence and scheme against His guidance.

The Sages, however, are not willing to accept that argument either. They are not willing to free God of responsibility for Cain's "free" act.

Thos spoke Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper? You are the guardian of all creatures, and yet you demand account of me! What is this like? It is like a thief who stole some vessels in the night and didn't get caught. In the morning, however, the watchman caught him and said to him, 'Why did you steal the vessels?' He replied, 'I am a thief and did not know how to exercise my skill. You are my watchman, your duty is to guard at the gates, why did you not use your skill?' Thos spoke Cain: 'True, I killed him, but you created in me the evil inclination. You guard all creatures, so how could you allow me to kill him? It was You who slew him.'"

The second part of this article will appear next week. The author is Nathan Blechner, Professor of Jewish Tradition and Values at Ben-Gurion University.

Israelis now more hawkish, says poll

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Prime Minister Menachem Begin's popularity remains high, but that of President Yitzhak Navon has suffered a fall. These are the findings of the latest *Jerusalem Post* poll, which also indicates that while half of the public would support the idea of a temporary halt to settlement in order to draw Jordan into the peace talks, over half opposes any territorial concession whatever to Jordan as part of any peace agreement that might be worked out.

The poll, conducted for *The Jerusalem Post* by the Mod'In Ezerli research institute, further indicates that hawkish views are consistently gaining strength in Israeli public opinion, while the political centre is weakening. The poll, directed by Dr. Sarah Shemer, was carried out between March 15 and 21. A representative sample of 1,216 Jewish Israelis was interviewed.

As a gauge of popularity of those considered by the public to be leading contenders for the post of prime minister, those polled were asked to name the man best suited to be prime minister. The current premier, Menachem Begin, maintains his very wide lead, and was chosen by 45.6 per cent of the respondents. This represents a slight increase over the February poll in which he was chosen by 44.7 per cent.

But, in all, says Shemer, he has maintained a steady level of popularity over the past six months and now his three times as much support as his nearest Alignment rival. The nearest rival, according to

public opinion, is President Yitzhak Navon, who is most popular among the would-be Labour contenders. However, Navon's popularity has declined from 22.9 per cent in February to only 15 per cent, even lower than the 18.4 per cent he scored last October.

The next in popularity among Labour public figures is former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is the choice of 5.4 per cent, a slight rise over last month, but still well below the 11.1 per cent he garnered last October.

Labour chairman Shimon Peres came in fourth, doing slightly better at 1.9 per cent, as against 3.6 per cent a month earlier.

Asked if they would support a temporary halt to settlement for a specified time only, in order to facilitate peace talks with Jordan, half of the respondents said they would support such a temporary halt. Against it are 38.5 per cent, with 12.5 per cent having no opinion and another 1.9 per cent not replying.

Those interviewed were asked about attitudes to a peace agreement which would obligate Israel to make territorial concessions in Judea and Samaria. Here, 50.2 per cent said they opposed any such concession. This marks an increase over the 46.6 per cent who opposed such concessions in February, and the 42.4 per cent who held these opinions in December, 1982.

Readiness to give up "some parts of Judea and Samaria" was expressed by 31.9 per cent, a decline from the February figure of 36.7 per cent and from the December, 1982 figure of 38.8 per cent.

THE U.S. PRESSURE EASES

(Continued from page 10)

For weeks, U.S. officials had said that Israel could not be expected to support Reagan's September 1 Middle East peace initiative without Hussein's direct involvement. Once again, the maze of pan-Arab politics had paralysed Arab actions, resulting in Arab intransigence. Moderates were held hostage to extremists.

The Reagan Administration, instead of blaming Israel for the impasse, lashed out against "radical elements" in the PLO and others in the Arab world.

In his speech before the survivors, Reagan did not dwell on Israel, although he certainly reaffirmed U.S. support. His political aides said it would have been out of the question to avoid any mention of Israel. The direct link between the Holocaust and Israel was made. He promised the survivors that "the security of your safe havens, here and in Israel, will never be compromised."

Even if some officials would have liked in temper criticism of the Arabs with some angry words against Israel and its West Bank settlement policy, they probably hesitated because of the simultaneous Holocaust gathering.

It would have been inappropriate for the president specifically to refer to the most recent political developments in his speech. That was left for other occasions, including the arrival ceremony on the White House lawn for Sultan Qabus of Oman, Reagan urged

Arabs and Palestinians to take "bold and courageous" new steps in the search for peace.

SECRETARY OF STATE George Shultz, who held one of his rare news conferences on April 12, did not mention the Holocaust during his lengthy responses to questions on the Middle East. But he, too, was said to have been further sensitized to Israel's concerns as a result of all the publicity generated in the U.S. news media this past week involving the Holocaust gathering.

Reagan, Shultz and their aides are now groping for some new steps to try to salvage their peace initiative, which is clearly in deep trouble.

The U.S. administration has insisted that it will not be deterred. In the short run, there may be a pause in U.S. diplomatic offensive. Shultz conceded that there are times when it is best to do nothing. This may be a case right now, although some of his aides want him to visit the Middle East. He is still resisting that proposal.

So the administration may just let the PLO and the other Arab leaders who failed to grant Hussein his required mandate sit alone for a while to mull over the impact of their actions. In the meantime, the U.S. has enough on its agenda — first and foremost mulling down a withdrawal of foreign forces agreement in Lebanon.

In any case, U.S. pressure on Israel was clearly eased this past week by two seemingly unrelated events.

THIRTY-FIVE years ago, on the fifth day of Iyar, 5708 — May 14, 1948 — 26 men and two women affixed their signatures to a document second only to the Bible in its importance to the Jewish people.

During the following two weeks, another nine men who had been unable to leave besieged Jerusalem, made their way to Tel Aviv where they signed the document that brought to a formal end 1878 years of Jewish statelessness, and created the third Jewish commonwealth.

Twenty-three years ago, I was commissioned by the Israel State Archives to record for posterity the memoirs of the signers of Israel's Declaration of Independence. When I began my task of recording, 31 of the original 37 were still alive. But the years have taken their toll, and their number has dwindled to nine today: Kaiman Kahana, Moshe Kol, Samiia Kovaehi, Meir David Levinstein, Ben Repeter, Herzl Rosenblum, Mordecai Bentov, Zerah Wahrhaftig and Meir Wilner.

Most of the signers went on to assume important roles in the State they had created. One — Yitzhak Ben-Zvi — became president. Three — David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Sharett and Golda Meir — became prime ministers. Others dropped out of sight and lived in obscurity. For a moment they all glimpsed eternity when they appended their names to the 17 paragraphs heralding the rise of the Jewish State from the ashes of the Holocaust.

One of the prime movers in the struggle to win independence was Moshe Sharett who headed the Jewish Agency delegation to the United Nations. In March 1948, the U.S. had backed down from its support for a Mideast partition, and was calling for a temporary UN trusteeship over the area. Secretary of State George C. Marshall had won President Harry Truman over to his point of view, and was trying to get the Agency delegation to accept it.

Sharett told me that before returning to Palestine four days before the Mandate was to end, he was asked by Marshall to recommend a delay in the creation of the state to Ben-Gurion.

"Marshall warned me that such a step would, in his opinion, precipitate widespread armed Arab resistance and endanger our existence... He felt it incumbent upon himself to warn us of the consequences: 'Your commanders are swept away by their successes today. As a veteran general, I would caution you not to put too much faith in them, for they are drunk with victory.'"

"I replied that we had reached a historic turning point, and that if we were to throw it away, who knew whether it would return? We would be judged before the bar of history by all the past generations and all the future ones. We, too, were aware of the dangers; but the danger of not taking action outweighed the risks we were taking. On this note, we parted."

Relating the popularly held supposition that Sharett had returned from New York to urge Ben-Gurion to delay the proclamation of the state, Ben-Gurion categorically denied that Sharett had done any such thing: "He told me what Marshall had counselled him, but made no move to prevent the State from coming into being."

Golda Meir knew precisely what was facing the as-yet unborn state. She had caught a glimpse of the armor concentrated in the Arab Legion camp at Ma'aluk while

Makers of history

Signatories to the Declaration of Independence talk to Eliezer Whartman about momentous days 35 years ago.



returning from her unsuccessful mission to dissuade King Abdullah from going to war. Would the Jewish forces be able to stand up to the combined Arab armies? It was imperative to know before going ahead with the proclamation of the state.

"A day or two before the Declaration of Independence ceremony, when it was necessary to decide whether or not to go ahead, two members of the Agency Executive requested that the leaders of the Hagana be consulted," she told me. "I shall never forget the incident. Israel Galilee, the Hagana commander and Yigal Yadin, chief of operations, were invited to testify."

"We asked them about the situation. They replied that there was no doubt that as soon as the British left, the Arab armies would invade. They were asked to forecast what would happen then, but refused to commit themselves, saying no more than that our chances were 50-50. It was on the basis of this warning that we had to arrive at a decision."

A provisional government had been formed consisting of the members of the Jewish Agency Executive, a representative of the Yemenite community, a member of the Communist Party, three representatives of the Revisionist Party, and the members of the Yehudi Hillelmi — the elected legislative body representing the Jewish population of Palestine to the Mandatory government. All told, they numbered 37, and formed the Provisional State Assembly. They, in turn, had elected 13 of their number to make up a Provisional State Council, which would constitute the first cabinet when the British left.

paign, but rather I objected to the principle of coercion of conscience."

The question of the borders posed another problem. The Revisionist Party was committed to a Jewish State which would include the area on both sides of the Jordan River, encompassing what had been Greater Palestine before it had been truncated by the British in 1922. The party's three representatives in the Assembly were in a dilemma: They had not been authorized to endorse anything less than the territory demanded by their party.

Time did not permit the convening of a special party congress to establish their rules of reference. By affixing their signatures to the document, they would, in fact, be accepting the borders laid down by the United Nations, reducing the size of the Jewish State to one-ninth of the area originally allocated to it by the League of Nations. One of their Assembly members, Zvi Segal, thus described their predicament:

"I asked Dr. Rosenblum (a party colleague) to suggest on behalf of our party that the words 'within its historic borders' be added so as to define the area of the State. Our suggestion was not accepted."

"I then asked Dr. Ben-Zion Sternberg (the third Revisionist member) to announce that we would add the words 'accepted with reservations' after our signatures. This, too, was not accepted. It appeared that we would be unable to participate in the ceremony."

"At that moment I received a brief note from Moshe Shapiro. It read: 'Why set yourselves apart?'

"I felt that we would be doing a disservice to our movement if we did not take part in this historic event. The members of the Assembly had already risen. Then an idea occurred to me. With the consent of my two colleagues, I suggested to Eliezer Kuplan and to Moshe Shapiro that before reading the Proclamation aloud, Ben-Gurion would announce that several signers had reservations about the text which they would air at a special meeting to be held the following evening."

"Ben-Gurion agreed to this and we left the hall, joyful that we would be full partners in the festive event."

From the meeting in the Jewish National Fund building, the Assembly members proceeded to the Tel Aviv Museum. The Proclamation ceremony had been set for 4:00 p.m.

A curious incident occurred as the members made their way to the museum. Nahum Nir, who was later to serve speaker of the Knesset, recalled it:

"After the meeting which approved the text of the Declaration, we left for the Tel Aviv Museum. By chance, I was among the last to leave. Only Ze'ev Sherf, the state secretary, remained behind. He had the Declaration with him. Everyone was waiting for us at the museum."

"We ordered our taxi driver to hurry, or we'd be late for the ceremony. Because of the speed at which he travelled, the driver was stopped by a policeman who wanted to give us a ticket."

"We explained two things to him: First, no authority stood behind the ticket because the Mandatory government no longer existed. Second, we were on our way to the ceremony proclaiming the establishment of the Jewish State, and we had the Proclamation with us. If he were to detain us, the State wouldn't come into being. He didn't give us a ticket, but waved us on."

"I, therefore, didn't object when Rabbi Minon recited the *shehechyanu* prayer when he signed the scroll. He did this according to his conscience. But I did object to the fact that I and others would be associated with a religious affirmation, even if it were ornately worded... I was not interested in conducting an anti-religious cam-

THE JEWISH WORLD

By GEOFFREY WIGODER

WITH THE exception of a Jewish community in Kaifeng-Fu in China, there was very little contact between the peoples of the Far East and the Jews before the early 19th century, when Jews began to arrive in significant numbers in the wake of the colonialist powers.

The pioneering families were mostly Sephardi, coming from Iraq, Syria and, to lesser degree, from elsewhere in the Middle East. Many came via India and settled in lands in the British sphere of influence — Burma, Singapore, Hongkong and Shanghai.

Others, including Jews from Holland, settled in islands of the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia. Still others reached the Philippines and Japan. A second wave of Jews moved from Russia to Manchuria at the end of the 19th century and were joined by more Russian Jews after the Bolshevik Revolution. A third wave of Jews arrived in the 1930s, refugees from Nazi Europe. Most of them reached Shanghai, which had 34,000 Jews by 1941.

During World War II, the Jews under Japanese rule suffered, mainly as did other Europeans. After the war, most of them moved on to

Far East journey

other destinations. The exodus of Jews from China gained further impetus with the Communist takeover, and that community is now extinct. Other communities dwindled or disappeared. However, there is still a scattering of small Jewish communities throughout the Far East.

THEIR STORY is told in a new Hebrew booklet, *Jewish Communities in the Far East*, by the well-known Jerusalem writer on Asian Jewry, Reuven Kashani. He visited all the existing communities and brings back an up-to-date report.

The Jews in the Far East maintain a constant struggle to keep their identity, but there is an inevitable seepage, as the younger generation tends to leave for the U.S., Australia, Israel and other destinations.

Some of the communities receive temporary strengthening from Israelis temporarily living there or from American Jewish servicemen, diplomats or businessmen. Another

factor, reported by Kashani, is the negligible, sometimes non-existent rate of intermarriage.

In Singapore, Rabbi Yitzhak Benzaquen officiates in the synagogue and told Kashani that there is no assimilation among Singapore's 450 Jews, a high degree of kashrut observance and an intense Jewish communal life, including a youth club, Talmud Torah, library, philanthropic organizations, etc.

THREE HUNDRED Jews live in the Philippines, the only Christian country in the Far East. The pre-World War II synagogue in Manila was destroyed in the fighting after the Japanese had converted it into an ammunition warehouse. After the war, it was rebuilt with the help of Jewish GI's stationed on the island; the problem today is that the Jews have moved away from that area, and it is difficult for those who do not ride on Sabbaths or festivals to attend. Plans are now being made to build a new synagogue.

Before World War II, some 3,000 Jews lived in Burma. They fled to India when the Japanese invaded, and only a few hundred returned. After the country achieved independence, the attitude towards all non-Burmans was unfriendly, and many Jews left. Today, fewer than 100 Jews remain, of whom a half are Bene Israel from India.

Hongkong Jewry, originally a Sephardi community, is today almost equally divided between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews. About 250 Jews are officially registered with the community, but it is thought that there are several hundred more who, for various reasons, remain unregistered. Here Kashani reports a certain amount of intermarriage, with the younger generation marrying into Korean and Chinese families. Jewish families there try to send their children to study in the U.S. in the hope that they will find Jewish marriage partners while finishing their education.

Before World War II, 2,000 Jews lived in Indonesia. Japanese occupation brought them suffering and the post-war exodus intensified as independence approached in 1949. Fewer than 100 now live there. On the other hand, the community in Thailand has increased since the war. In the 1950s, only a dozen Jewish families lived in the country, but the growth of the American presence has increased the Jewish population, which today numbers 200-300. Since 1966, there has been a community centre, with a synagogue. There is no rabbi, but Jewish American army chaplains perform rabbinical functions when needed.

Japan's 700 Jews constitute the largest community in the Far East. They work largely in import-export and in the professions. The community leaders claim that in the very rare cases where a Jew marries a Japanese, the latter converts to Judaism. Most of the Jews in Japan are of Ashkenazi origin; they are not Japanese citizens, as Japan makes it very difficult for anyone coming from outside to obtain Japanese citizenship. The small Tokyo community has an active centre, which includes a kosher restaurant (with meat imported from the U.S., as in most of these Far East communities) and a mikve.

All in all, the story of most of Far East Jewry is little more than a century old. One wonders if they can survive another century.

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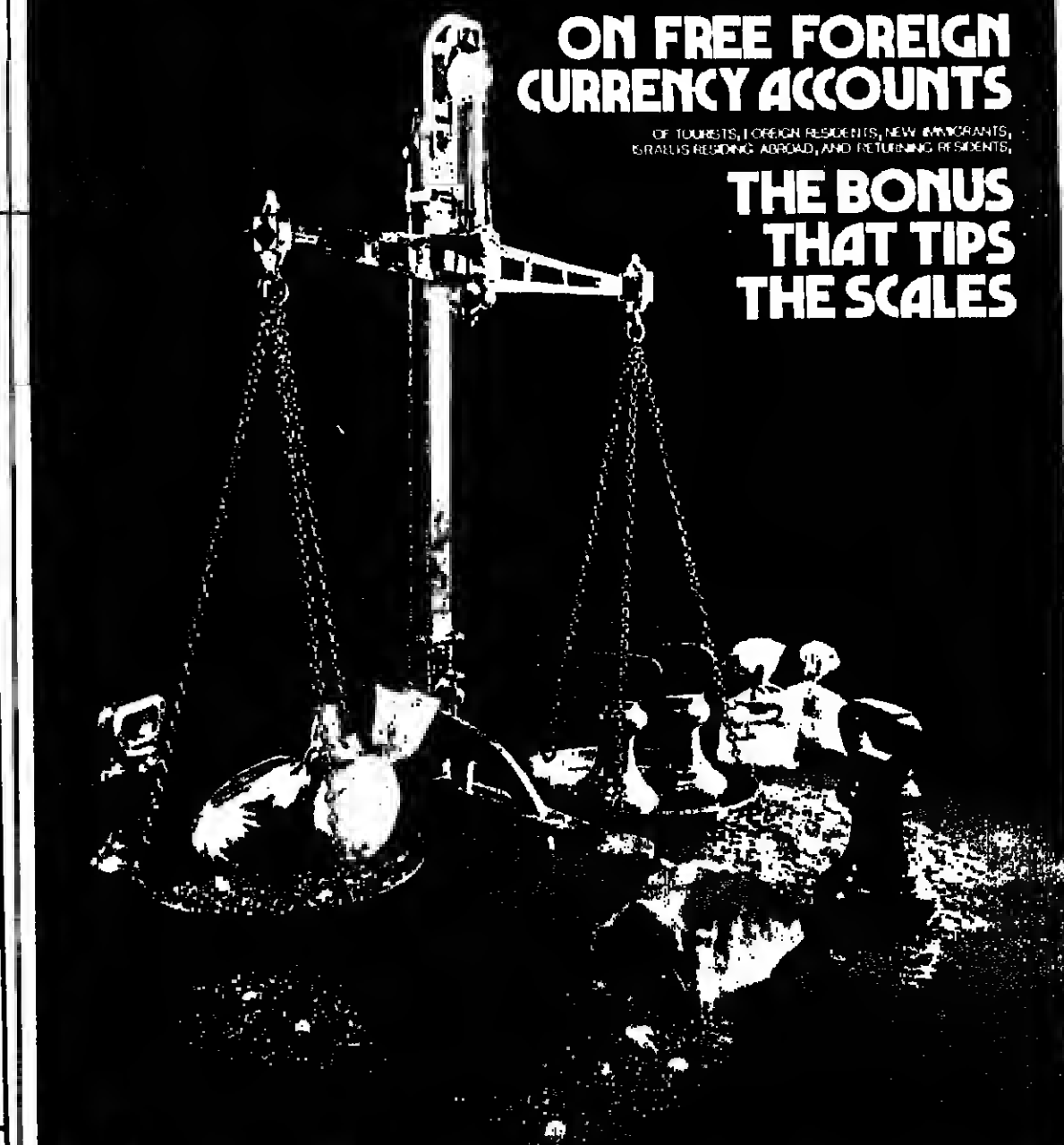
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Cabinet's first woman member

Sarah Doron tells 'The Post's' Lea Levavi of what she hopes to do as the third woman minister in Israel's history.

ing public awareness on consumer issues.

"In addition to fighting for women's rights in all aspects of life, I think women who reach high positions can give other women confidence in themselves," she says. On the practical level, she mentions her work for passage of the Equal Opportunities in Employment Law.

"I had three purposes: to eliminate discrimination in job ads, in hiring and in promotions on the job. So far, the law deals only with the first two. Several newspapers have been indicted on charges of running discriminatory ads, and I hope the cases will be heard soon."

She says she will continue to work not only for elimination of discrimination on the job, but also for equality for women in all aspects of life. At the same time, she believes that equality requires more involvement by women themselves. "I hope women will develop the confidence to want all that they are capable of having and being, and to go out and get it."

FOR NINE years prior to her election to the Knesset in 1977, she served on the Tel Aviv City Council. "I was in Houbston when they elected a woman mayor there. Here we do not have even one woman mayor or deputy mayor, and very few women on local councils. I think women's priorities on the issues that affect our everyday lives, which are the issues municipalities and local councils handle, are the right priorities."

"One of my first battles will be to try to get all the parties to place women in realistic spots on their lists for the municipal elections."

As for other areas in which she will work, she does not want to commit herself until she discusses the matter with Prime Minister Begin and her colleagues.

"For instance, I am very interested in consumerism, which is now handled by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. I do not want to interfere with the work of any ministry, but perhaps my friend Tildon Patt and I can find a way for me to become involved in increasing public awareness on consumer issues."



Has being a woman hurt her political career? It may have hurt a little at first, she says, but later, such as in getting elected to the Knesset, it helped. "At this point, I really don't think it makes any difference."

(How does her architect husband Aaron feel about her political career? "When we first met, I was 17 and very active in the Scouts. Public life was always important to me."

me." She had intended to study law in England, but World War II and her marriage thwarted those plans. "When my daughter was in first grade, I became active in the Parents' Association and after that in the party."

Though she says she has no higher personal ambitions for herself, she has ambitions for the Likud (Mr. Begin's Herut party and the Liberals) government. She hopes, needless to say, that the Likud will remain in power for many years to come.

"I really do not mean power as much as I mean public service. I think our job is to serve the people. There is still a lot to be done — for instance, more effort toward economic independence. And the social gaps in society must be closed. At least, we have had the courage to admit that the problem exists and to confront it, head on, through efforts like Project Renewal. Sure there is bureaucracy, and not everything goes smoothly, but I think we are going in the right direction."

SHE IS not concerned about the fact that the Liberal Party does not hold the finance portfolio or other key ministries. "In a good partnership, like in a happy family, it does not matter who has nominal responsibility for what; everyone pulls together."

She cannot gauge what the Liberals' electoral strength would be were they to run in an election alone, but says it does not matter, because the decision to form Gahal and later the Likud were the right decisions. "Thirty years ago, none of us dreamed that we would come to power. The road through the opposition desert seemed very long."

In the party's central committee vote on the nominee for the cabinet seat, she received 110 of the 231 votes cast. Her nearest competitor was Deputy Agricultural Minister Pessah Grupper with 89 votes. He

was backed by Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, and Doron notes that Moda'i made a very nice gesture in suggesting that after the secret ballot, there be an open vote in which I should be elected unanimously. It was done."

Even Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisrael, who had publicly said his party would vote against her appointment were it put before the Knesset, called her to congratulate her. MK Doron's opposition to the "Who is a Jew?" amendment to the Law of Return has angered the four Agudat MKs, but she says they may not vote against her when her appointment comes before the Knesset for approval. "Rabbi (Menachem) Porush, with whom I have worked closely on the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee, gave me to understand that there was no such party decision."

Asked her views on Jodea and Samaria, she says she could sum them up in one word: survival. We need Jodea, Samaria and Gaza for Israel's security, she believes, and Jewish settlement there, with notonmy for the Arab residents, is the only viable solution. "When I came to Israel from Lithuania in the 1930s, Jaffa was an Arab city. I grew up here in Tel Aviv in close proximity to an Arab population. That does not have to be a problem."

She says she is not sufficiently knowledgeable about negotiations with Lebanon to venture an opinion, and she looks forward to knowing more when she joins the cabinet. "What I can say in the meantime, though, is that we have become impatient. We want everything now."

"We want peace now, and trips abroad, now, and everything now. It took 30 years to make peace with Egypt, and it will take more time for the peace to develop. I too, would like to see an agreement with Lebanon tomorrow, but if that cannot be we have to learn to bide our time."

always assumed that at a meeting of architects, the woman architect present would serve the coffee or keep the protocol. Ostrowitz got tired of being called *maidele* by her male colleagues.

She met other women who had similar complaints and an interest in doing something about it — for instance, lobbying in the Knesset for equal pay and the right to abortion. *Noga* grew out of those encounters.

"I don't mind if women come to me and say, 'I read this and don't agree with the research it's based on,' but they say instead, 'everything's all right with me.' They say, in effect, 'We had a female prime minister, so it doesn't matter that women get 30 per cent less pay than men.'"

Why don't women read more about the problems of their own status and identification? It's a matter of availability, Ostrowitz thinks. People choose their reading on the basis of reviews, hearsay, and what they see around. In Israel, not much is "around," and only recently has some of this literature been translated into Hebrew.

Besides, women who have a problem taking themselves seriously — and that's most of us in one way or another — also have trouble taking seriously the books they write. And, there is always the danger that they'll be convinced by what they read and have to do something about it.

Noga received considerable attention as the result of its sym-

posium on women and the media early last month. Some of the attention was from men, and that, unfortunately, is what it takes to give the magazine greater legitimacy in the eyes of other women.

But for now, *Noga* remains a shoe-string operation. There is little advertising — partly because the editors, haven't the time to solicit, and partly because they object to the content of some of the ads they have been offered.

There is some income from subscriptions and sales, but most of the funds are contributions from the U.S., particularly from the "Women to Women" organization.

For the five editors, *Noga* is volunteer work; they all have other jobs. Ostrowitz takes some contracts as an architect; Mira Ariel lectures in linguistics at Tel Aviv University; Aviva Ein-Gil is a graphic artist at *Ha'ar*; Amira Galbloom operates a word-processor at the Open University; and Dafna Tsor works with computers.

"Most people would think the way we work on *Noga* is a joke or a lie," says Ostrowitz. "Five women do everything — get articles out of people, collect news here and abroad, argue at editorial meetings, drink coffee, proof-read."

They also deal with odd requests from the public, such as one from a gentleman who wanted to place a personal ad for a woman of "valour."

Yalour, let's say, is an evolving concept.

THE ARTS

MORE THAN any other profession or vocation practised in Israel, the creative process in music is continuously undergoing changes and re-evaluation. Change in style, approach and intention; experiments in trends developed abroad. There is much exploration of new techniques which seem to open up new possibilities of expression and give greater, if not complete, freedom to hold composers who think either that more traditional forms are exhausted or that one has to swim with the tide in order to be regarded as at least contemporary, if not avant-garde.

Electronics offer a completely new vista, while collage, aleatorics, graphics, and the employment of extra-musical noises seem to have lost their glamour (if they ever had any). Naturally, in a period of search and experimentation, licence is given to anybody or, rather, is taken by those negators of evolution and detractors of tradition who look for different things in their "compositions", and intend to express their personal originality rather than musical values.

It is a historical fact that in such periods of change and re-evaluation, no great works are created, as the general insecurity, lack of experience with the new media, perhaps also lack of self-criticism and self-control, are not

WE ALL get by with a little help from our friends.

Habimah, the national theatre, has a Friends Association with an office between the wings of the theatre and the offices of the management, so they can put a finger on occasionally to test the wind direction.

The group celebrated its fifth anniversary last week — Habimah was without "friends" for its first 60 years. The major event was a reception at the President's House, where a film in English about Habimah and about the association's activities had its premiere.

The purpose of the film is to recruit more support abroad for the theatre — professional as well as financial. Habimah already has friends associations in New York, Frankfurt and Caracas, and organization meetings are planned for London and Toronto in May.

"This is not just another group to collect money," says Ora Goldenberg, founder and chairman. "We're concerned with what a national theatre should do, what's special about it."

The Friends have renewed a programme for young people which lasted about 30 years ago. It offers performances supplemented by behind-the-scenes glimpses at the role of a director or scene-designer or other participant in the production. Membership is subsidized for about half the 1,000 participants.

The Friends also supplement the Omani La'um programme (Art for the People) by providing funds to take the theatre to development towns where members of the company meet workers in factories, and housewives anywhere but over a hot stove.

Other projects include scholarships to actors who are outstanding either in the art or in their willingness to work in the community, and special reduced subscription rates for adults from disadvantaged neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

The Friends themselves — over 200 couples now, says Goldenberg — pay high prices for their subscriptions and get 10 to 12 closed performances a year. All the banks have

'Folk' challenge

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS/Yohanan Boehm



Naomi Shemer

conductive in creativity.

As seems natural in these circumstances, the older generation of Israeli composers hardly go public any more. They have either stopped composing altogether, or they do not want to try out new ways and means, or cannot conscientiously do so.

The middle generation produces very little, and the performance of a new composition on our stages is a rarity. The young, the fledglings of music academy classes, have to



Yehoram Givon

learn to master their freedom, and so far an outstanding talent has appeared.

AS IN OTHER fields in our new society, we face a unique situation which, as far as I know, has no parallel anywhere else. A look at personalities and dates will explain. Music was hardly a factor during the decades of pioneering and early immigration. Of the more important figures in writing songs with a folk character and reflecting the in-

fluences imparted with them or, rather, through them, must come from Russia, and later also from Germany, Bulgaria, Turkey, and other countries.

Jerusalem-born Ezra Gubai (1921-1974) seems to have been the first musician who tried to combine oriental melos with a new Israeli expression in tune and rhythm (in which Almon-Girochov was also a pioneer). Pash Greenspan (b. 1900 in Jaffa) and Emanuel Zamir (Peth Tikva, 1934-1962) contributed songs that are still being sung in our schools.

Not herself a composer but one who acquainted many composers with the oriental traditions of the Jewish communities was the singer Bracha Talmon (born during World War I in Jerusalem).

IT WAS only much later that a "native" composer made the hit parade and created a new style of Israeli song which has retained its popularity over the years: Naomi Shemer, who was born in 1931 at Kfar Yotam, Kinneret. And only Yehoram Givon, a Jerusalemite, broke through the barrier of mainly Eastern European influence and put a new kind of Israeli popular song on the map, while folkloristically-motivated composition degenerated into imitations of foreign styles and

reached the level of the Eurovision contest.

The evolution of what could be recognized as a kind of Israeli folksong was further complicated by the problem of language. While most of the early songs sang in Eretz Yisrael bore the strong imprint of a foreign culture, with either texts simply translated or new words adapted, but sung with the Ashkenazi pronunciation, it was not until the 1940s that modern Hebrew in the Sephardi mode influenced composers' rhythmic and melodic style so that it conformed with the commonly accepted way of pronouncing and accenting our language. One can easily see, by song by checking its use of the words — whether the accents are "wrong" (as in *Harkko*), or whether the words fit properly into the rhythmic pattern of the melody.

CREATING a new folk music when the whole world is badly neglecting its national musical heritage is a unique challenge, complicated by the heterogeneous traditions of the many Jewish communities gathering in Israel after having been exposed to foreign influences for centuries. Probably even a greater problem is the creation of a national folk music in an era of mass communication, when television, films and records carry everything everywhere in no time.

Dispute over culture centre

By CAROL LYON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — Zionist Organization of America President Ivan Novick says that the ZOA has decided to establish a cultural centre in Jerusalem and is considering the sale of its Tel Aviv centre, ZIVA House, to the left-wing Kibbutz Arzi movement.

Novick, who was in Israel to attend the conference on Soviet Jewry, told *The Jerusalem Post* however that the ZOA would "never leave Tel Aviv," saying that he favours moving the ZOA House activities to smaller quarters on another site. He promised that any profit from the proposed sale would be put into the new Jerusalem and Tel Aviv centres.

A source close to the ZOA said the organization had been offered between \$4 million and \$5 million for the property in Tel Aviv.

Novick was interviewed after meeting with the local ZOA management committee, which adopted a unanimous resolution opposing the proposed sale. Committee chairman Jacob Grauman stated its objections to transferring ZOA House to "a left-wing organization and to shutting the only Liberal cultural centre in Tel Aviv." ZOA is close to the Liberal Party.

The ZOA leader described as "scurrilous" reports that financial hardship was forcing the organization to sell ZOA House, built on land acquired from the Israel Lands Administration in 1952. There are reports that ZOA is operating with a \$2.5 million deficit.

Award for composer

Composer Ya'acov Gilboa has been named first recipient of the Prime Minister's Prize for Israeli Composers. The prize is sponsored jointly by the Israeli Composers Union and the art and culture council of the Education and Culture Ministry.

Anyone who needed some relief from all that warmth and goodwill could go back to the hotel, turn on the TV and, if he was lucky, get Archie Bonker dubbed in Japanese.

IT'S NOT exactly the Venus that Botticelli had in mind — fresh from the foam of the sea, on the half-shell.

This one rolls off the press every three months or so, in about 2,000 facsimiles, and is the product of the sweat and thought of five Tel Aviv women.

Noga — Hebrew for "Venus," both planet and myth — is Israel's only feminist magazine. Polemical or not, *Noga* intelligent and informative, and it's going into its seventh issue.

On the covers of the two widest-circulation women's magazines — *At*, published by *Ma'ariv*, and *L'isha*, published by *Yedioth Ahronot* — you find women in various states of semi-dress and provocative slouch. The tone and content of those magazines are determined by what one journalist in *Noga's* recent Tel Aviv symposium on women in the media called the "phallocracy" of one of the afternoon dailies.

On the cover of *Noga* you may find a modern-day "witch" sporting a white ena and stethoscope, riding on a broomstick, or a doll's face which, under a magnifying glass, becomes a woman's. The attractive design is done by Tamar Elida.

Looks, however, are not everything. *Noga* itself devoted a recent article to the "Cinderella complex" and the ways fictions about beauty, equated to goodness, twist us all.

But if *Noga* doesn't exist to be beautiful, what's it for?

By way of recommendation, I can only say that each time I start scanning an article I haven't read yet, I end up reading most of it and going on to the next. The poetry, like most political poetry, is pretty bad.

Ostrowitz has short blonde hair, blue eyes, a lot of nervous energy, and some doubts about whether she can communicate the importance of feminism to women who remain sceptical. She would rather have *Noga* speak for itself — and it does.

Her own interest in feminism has developed partly because of experience in her profession: it was

The other voice

'Post' Reporter Marsha Pomerantz finds from Rachel Ostrowitz (picture below) how five women put out a feminist magazine on a shoestring budget.

"Information" says Rachel Ostrowitz, one of *Noga's* five editors, whose apartment serves as their office. "We need information. Just recently a book came out about women's independent travels in the 19th century. Why did it take so long to find out? We have to bring it to the attention of both men and women."

"And we need models," she adds. "I studied architecture for five years and never discovered a single woman who could be a model in what is considered a 'male' profession."

Noga hasn't yet run an article about women architects, as far as I can see — but it has had one about Hypatia, the mathematician of ancient Alexandria, and about the first American female astronaut.

Other articles: the status of women in the Middle Ages; Jewish women who held "salons" in 18th- and 19th-century Germany; a long fictionalized description of the first night of a bought Yenteite bride (which aroused in me more prurient interest than righteous indignation).

Additional *Noga* topics included women as labourers, and methods of birth control.



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Industry blames the government for drop in exports

Jerusalem Post Staff

TEL AVIV. — Israel's industrialists resolved at a meeting here last week not to participate in government-initiated trade delegations and to boycott all trade fairs in Israel or abroad sponsored by the Export Institute. The moves were in protest against current economic policies. The Ministry of Industry and Trade angrily denounced the move and said it would harm the exporters themselves more than anyone else.

Representatives of all the industrialists, with the exception of the heads of government companies, took part in the meeting. The participants condemned government policies which, they said, had resulted in the 24 per cent drop in industrial exports and the 11 per cent drop in agricultural exports in March. They believed it was part of an accelerating trend that would lead to mass unemployment.

Apart from the boycott of trade fairs and delegations, the participants adopted a number of resolutions which they kept secret for the time being. These are aimed at pressuring the government to change its policies.

The speakers, who included

delegates from private, Histadrut, kibbutz and moshav concerns, charged that the basic problem was the government's artificial slowing-down of the devaluation of the shekel. This had led to an effective upward valuation of the shekel of 37 per cent in real terms during the past 15 months, compared to the "basket of currencies."

This had wiped out the profitability of exporting, and priced exports out of foreign markets. On the other hand, it had made imports so cheap that they were destroying the local market.

"Not only has the tide of inflation not been stemmed, but the government's efforts to help solve the problem of declining exports by other means is simply nonsensical chatter," Yeshayahu Gavish, head of the Histadrut-associated Koor concern said, noting that the final results would be no even greater shift away from productive work.

Manufacturers' association head Eli Hurvitz pointed out that the new 1 per cent levy on the purchase of foreign currency, which should raise \$150 million a year to help exporters, "was not only insufficient,



Eli Hurvitz, head of the manufacturers' association.

but much too late to help the industrial sector."

Fifty per cent of Israeli industry exports, noted Hurvitz. If there is a 24 per cent drop in exports, as in March, this means that the half of the industry working for exports is out of work.

In other words, this means some 36,000 workers will soon pick up their last pay cheque, because most of them are already "hidden unemployed."

Danny Rosolio, incoming head of

Hevrat Ovdim, the Histadrut labour federation's holding company, thought that the problem of unemployment had not been felt yet because of emigration. "There was not only a flight of manpower, he said, but also of capital and initiative."

Shlomo Givon, representing kibbutz industries, pointed out that "50 per cent of the income of the kibbutzim comes from industry; and the percentage is much higher in the young kibbutzim. When their factories close down, so will the kibbutzim themselves. They cannot rely on agriculture, for they were planned for industry, and do not have any farming resources available."

Elinhu Iznakson, President of the Farmers' Federation, said that agriculture, "once the glory of Israel," is actually collapsing, since 95 per cent of our exports go to the Common Market, where foreign currencies are falling steadily in value. The exchange-rate guarantee is far from sufficient to cover the huge losses.

An Industry and Trade Ministry spokesman, commenting on the decisions of the industrialists to boy-

cott trade fairs, said that the places vacated by the Israeli exporters would be taken up by producers from other countries.

Last week the government raised \$170m. to support exports and this had been quite a burden on the public. Now was the time for exporters to initiate a new drive to turn the situation around, said the spokesman.

He reiterated that the ministry would be watching the world markets and take further action if this proved necessary.

Exports in March, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, were \$444m. as compared to \$572m. in March 1982.

The only branch of the economy to hold its own was diamonds. Metal and electronics exports were hit particularly hard, down 35.7 per cent; food exports declined 28 per cent; wood and paper 30 per cent and textiles 14.2 per cent.

Government spokesmen said that the new economic measures decided on recently, involving support for exporters funded by the recently imposed levy on foreign-currency purchases, would remedy the situation.



Prof. Arye Lavi, the Industry and Trade Ministry's chief scientist, drives the Re'em, the Israeli Aircraft Industries' new armoured personnel carrier.

El Al cuts payroll by 37 per cent

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The substantial savings El Al is achieving as a result of improved efficiency since it reopened in January will probably not be enough to cover losses from suspended Sabbath flights. "A considerable part of our projected deficit is due to the Sabbath stoppage," general manager Raffy Harlev said last week.

Addressing the Skol Club at the Dan Carmel hotel, Harlev said that El Al would save 37 per cent of its payroll of well over \$100 million on the big staff reductions its workers had agreed to last January. He noted that in 1978 the staff had expanded to 6,126, with many doing little work as they were gradually upgraded to the top. The workforce

was now down to 4,900, with another 1,000 due to go by the end of October. The reduced staff was doing the same amount of work as the former larger workforce, and since its inception this winery has symbolized the base of organized Hebrew labour in Israel, said Meshel.

Harlev said that if El Al could begin to pay its way, as he hoped it would, the long shutdown would turn out to have been worthwhile. "It may yet serve as a model for future labour relations here," he said. It can do this by showing workers that the way El Al had been driven into the ground by its employees with exaggerated wage demands and works committees meddling in management affairs was not the right way. He praised the Histadrut labour federation for its part in getting the workers to agree to a reasonable new start.

large advertising costs," he said. But he stressed that El Al would not try to compete with charter flights by cutting prices and would instead try to preserve its image as a stylish scheduled carrier.

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Since El Al had reopened in January it had almost regained its former number of passengers, Harlev said. He thought this was in large measure due to the introductory cheap flight offers, which have now come to an end. "They brought our passengers back to us without



Rosolio takes over

Former Labour Party Knesset Member Danny Rosolio was last week elected secretary-general of Hevrat Ovdim, the Histadrut labour federation's holding company, which in various forms controls a considerable part of the country's economy.

Rosolio, who has been acting as secretary-general for the past five weeks, replaces Moshe Olenik, who returns to his former post as deputy chairman of the board of Bank Hapoalim.

"Despite the harsh economic conditions against which industry is struggling today, we will do everything to shield workers from dismissal. We will see to it that industry continues to show initiative and increase productivity," said Rosolio.

Rosolio is a member of Kibbutz Cnani, in Galilee. He said the main thrust of his policy would be to see that investments were made in putting up or expanding factories in development areas.

Offis Textiles to go public

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Offis textile company, which is owned by Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, the holding company of the Histadrut, has received approval to go public. The company plans to raise \$145 million (about \$1.1m.) on the stock market and from its employees.

Offis, which was founded in 1973 and is active in the fields of dyeing, printing and finishing of cloth, will use about \$132m. of the new funds to buy additional machinery for its plant, which is located in the Azur industrial zone.

May is 'Buy Israel Goods' month in UK

By HYAM CORNEY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — A major promotion of Israeli goods will take place in Britain throughout the month of May. Sponsored by the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the promotion is being launched under the slogan "B.I.G. (Buy Israel Goods) Month." It follows the successful "B.I.G. Day" of 1981 and "B.I.G. Week" last year.

The main emphasis of the month will be on Israeli food exports to Britain, which play a large role in the £500 million (IS 3.5 billion) worth of trade between the two countries. Demonstrations and tastings will be held in selected supermarkets and smaller stores throughout the country, where

Sales last year reached \$94m. (compared to \$44.5m. in the previous year), and the company reported net after-tax earnings of \$6.9m.

At present, the major shareholders are the Histadrut which through its Te'us group holds 42 per cent of the equity; Oz Investments, controlled by the Rozov family, which holds 36 per cent, and another private textile group, Argei Dan, controlled by the Yoskovitz family, with 14 per cent.

The underwriters are a consortium of insurance companies, led by Securitan, a financial consulting firm.

posters bearing the slogan "Put on a happy taste — the taste of Israeli foods" will be displayed.

Travel and tourism will also play a prominent role in "B.I.G. Month," which is being organized by a committee under the chairmanship of Monty Sumray, chairman of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Hot water tanks

The Rotoplas plastica company will soon market hot water tanks holding 500, 1,000 and 2,000 litres. The tanks will withstand temperatures of 80 degrees centigrade and minus 30 degrees centigrade.

Workers fight plan to move Carmel Wineries to Samaria

By YITZHAK OKED
Rishon LeZion Mayor Hanania

Gibstein has sent a strongly worded memo opposing the closures to the Ministers of Agriculture, Finance and Industry and Trade.

He explained that he was opposed to government subsidies being granted to existing industries. Such grants were necessary for young, struggling industries, he said, but he feared that if other companies followed Carmel's example — moving every few years and obtaining huge government aid each time — industry would soon be in disarray. The municipality was ready to give the wine cooperative extra land.

The Post learns that Zichron Ya'acov is prepared to give sufficient extra land to facilitate the complete rebuilding of the winery there if necessary.

Meshel also pointed out historical reasons for opposing the closures. The first secretary-general of the Histadrut, David Ben-Gurion, worked at the winery at Rishon at the start of his career, and since its inception this winery has symbolized the base of organized Hebrew labour in Israel, said Meshel.

Yisrael Lerman, managing director of the Wine Growers Cooperative, told The Jerusalem Post that his business did not have money to waste on sentimentalities. "We need money, and large sums at that, to build a modern winery so that we can compete both locally and in foreign markets," he said.

Lerman estimated the new winery would cost around \$40 million. The real estate value of the wineries (which are centrally located in Rishon and Zichron), is about \$14m.

The Post learned that at present the cooperative could not raise the necessary additional sums without government aid. It is in financial difficulties with great stocks of unsold

winemaking to its problems. Rishon LeZion Mayor Hanania Gibstein has sent a strongly worded memo opposing the closures to the Ministers of Agriculture, Finance and Industry and Trade.

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Workers' opposition to the proposals took the form of a protest last month. A workers' committee, together with the local labour council, has now told management that the men are willing to negotiate and implement all measures to increase productivity and streamline the work.

They emphasized, however, that they are not willing to pay the price for the results of had management at the cooperative over the past decade.

Managing director Lerman said, however, that he did not understand why the workers were protesting. He said any move would take at least three or four years, every step would be coordinated with the workers, and most of them would be given the option of moving with the plant.

Lerman added that a committee of the cooperative was at present studying various proposals on sites for the new winery. He believed that the committee would come to a decision in about two months.

New star system for local restaurants

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Tourism Ministry last week decided to change its system of recommending restaurants by putting them into groups indicated by one to four stars. All recommended restaurants will have to serve a fixed-price meal for tourists. Among the criteria determining the number of stars are the restaurant's size, its decor and table settings.

The quality of food served will also be a criterion, the Ministry's spokesman said in reply to a question. He said Ministry teams will eat at the restaurants to determine their standard of food. Further checks will be made to ensure that the standard is maintained, he said.

Separate criteria have also been determined for recommended self-service restaurants and cafes. The new system will use a new symbol and the Ministry's old recommendation signs are to be recalled.

The new Jerusalem firm's researchers will be guided by a team of local and foreign geneticists, including Prof. Avraham Loyer of the University of California. Former President Ephraim Katzir has been named senior adviser to the company.

Genetic research firm opens in capital

Jerusalem's newest science-based industry opened its doors this month at the Talpoh industrial centre.

The International Genetic Sciences Partnership was established by two American firms — First Mississippi Corp. and International Genetic Sciences Inc.

The new Jerusalem firm's researchers will be guided by a team of local and foreign geneticists, including Prof. Avraham Loyer of the University of California. Former President Ephraim Katzir has been named senior adviser to the company.

It's all smiles in Israel's jewelry trade

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

WHILE MANY branches of Israel's industry are in the doldrums, jewelry manufacturers are basking in the golden glow of success. Jewelry exports rose from 79 million in 1981 to \$125m. in 1982.

"Jewelry is one of the few industries in Israel which has not been adversely affected by the world economic recession," says Nelia Ya'akobi, director of the Jewelry Centre at the Israel Export Institute.

"The industry is working to full capacity — so much so, that it is suffering from a dearth of available skilled labour." In fact, at one stage, the situation became so critical that the Israeli government permitted the importation of skilled labour from India.

What has prompted this significant growth in the industry?

"People buy jewelry irrespective of the economic climate," says Ya'akobi, matter-of-factly, "but more so when money loses its value. It's then that people really place their trust in gold."

Another major contributing factor in increased exports is the slump in the diamond industry. The substantial fall in diamond prices on world markets has made the gems more accessible to jewellers. Thus, the trend in Israel has been to manufacture more gold jewelry set with diamonds and other precious stones than ever before.

The decline in the diamond industry is regarded as a temporary one, and there is a strong belief that diamonds will again rise in value. Thus, the gold-and-diamond combination is viewed as a good, long-term investment.

Connie Matalon, one of the organizers of Showcase '83, the Israel Jewelry Fair which was held last week in Jerusalem, adds that in investment potential aside, Israeli jewelry sells because "the design is excellent, the quality and craftsmanship are good, and the prices are competitive."

Matalon, who was herself a jewelry manufacturer and exporter for 15 years before becoming an administrator, is thoroughly familiar

with the international jewelry scene, and claims that in terms of quality, Israel is second only to Italy. "We don't have to copy anyone," she says. "We have our own creative resources."

Showcase '83 will be a temporary centre stage for much of this creativity but something of a more permanent nature is due to follow. Israel Export Institute director-general Rami Gut is looking forward to the opening of the Centre of Display — a creative showroom for Israeli jewelry, arts and crafts — slated to open in Old Jaffa later this year.

Gut attributes the industry's booming export success to the fact that the major thrust is made towards the U.S., "where the dollar has kept a relative strength in comparison to other currencies."

Moreover, in America, Israel has an advantage over Italy, in that it enjoys the benefits of GSP (Generalized System of Preferences), a statute introduced in encourage industrial growth in

developing countries. Israel is thus permitted tax-free imports to the value of \$42 million in each of five categories of jewelry in which either gold or stones have the major value.

Israel also benefits from arrangements with the EEC.

New technologies play a vital part in boosting Israel's sales. Research conducted by the Noble Metals Institute at the Haifa Technion has resulted in the development of new processes which are more economical and guarantee better quality and efficiency.

There are two educational institutions which provide courses for potential jewellers, but neither provides an all-embracing jewelry curriculum: the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem puts the emphasis on design and innovation, whereas the Omani School in Old Jaffa is more interested in practicalities.

"What we want," states Ya'akobi, "is a school which teaches everything from A to Z — creative design, practical execution, casting,



cutting, finishing, operation and maintenance of machinery..."

Plans for just such a school are already on the drawing-boards thanks to FECS (Federation of Educational Guidance Services) and FED (Federation of Educational Donors) — two American groups who are providing some funds, the initial nucleus of teachers, and even study opportunities in America for Israeli teachers. The American Jewellers Association is also involved in the project.

Taxes equal 51% of GNP

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The total sum paid in taxes in the financial year just concluded was the equivalent of 51 per cent of the gross national product. The previous year, the proportion was 44 per cent. This was learned from figures given at a press conference last week by the tax authorities to mark the end of the fiscal year.

The taxation rate rose mainly because of the IS37 billion in new taxes resulting from the war in Lebanon, while there was a virtual standstill of the GNP over the past year.

In the 1982/83 fiscal year, tax revenue amounted to IS278 billion, as compared with a GNP of IS548b. The tax authorities failed this year to increase tax collection, and without the new taxes this year's tax revenue might have been lower than

last year's. Tax revenue increased partly because of the growth in private consumption and the increase in imports, especially imports on which there are high taxes, such as cars and video sets.

Some 64,000 cars were imported during the past year — as compared with 53,000 the year before. Some 90,000 video sets were brought in this year as compared with 25,000 the previous year.

These two import items brought the Treasury IS16.5 billion in taxes. Moshe Bartov, the director of the State Revenue Administration, conceded that the high taxation level was, especially difficult, for those who paid their taxes in full. He maintained that levying taxes more efficiently now would allow a cut in taxes in the future.

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High	Low	Prices in U.S. dollars	On	Off	High	Low	Prices in U.S. dollars	On	Off
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0	100	Leumi	100	100	0	100	Argonim (B.I.G.) - Textiles (Ordinary Reg)	100	100
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REJECTING THE PROPHETS' TEACHING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — In advocating the harshness and excommunication of Anik Shironi, Rabbi Jonathan Perlman ("Rejecting the prophets" — March 20) is himself rejecting a basic teaching of the prophets, namely, that a person who erred may continue to serve the Lord and His people.

King David was not only "responsive for not having done enough to prevent the death of Palestinian civilians," as Rabbi Perlman quotes the Kahan report on Arik Shironi; he was recognized as the "the man" who instigated and ordered the death of the innocent Uriah so that he might be free to marry Bat Sheva. However, having recognized the error and having paid the

penalty, David continued to reign as King, and Solomon, the son of that ill-conceived marriage, was permitted to ascend the throne of Israel and to build the Holy Temple, because the prophets believed in forgiveness and our forefathers practised it.

If, following the incident of Uriah and Bat Sheva, the Jewish people throughout the centuries could continue to refer to David as "the sweet singer of Israel", and to use his Psalms in prayer, the Young Israel of America, and the household of Israel everywhere, may, and should, continue to listen to Anik Shironi, and benefit from what he may have to offer.

RABBI ABRAHAM J. EIRLICH
Jerusalem.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I left Canada to live in Israel when I became a second-class citizen in Quebec by virtue of language. I arrived in Israel only to discover that I am a second-class citizen by virtue of religion since Conservative and Reform Jews have no rights in Israel.

I could live free as a Jew in Canada than I can here, since my synagogue and my rabbi were recognized by the federal and provincial governments. All religious ceremonies, weddings and funerals included, could be performed by all registered rabbis whatever their denomination. I have stood at the ramparts for Soviet Jewry and Jews in Arab lands. For years, I fought the propaganda battle for the State of Israel. Who will fight for me now that I need help?

Where are all the Israelis who, like me, respect the Orthodox but

have no desire to follow their dictates? Where are all those who have enjoyed services in Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist synagogues abroad? Where are the Knesset members who know that it is unjust to live, as we do, under the dictatorship of the rabbinate, an organization which, if unchecked, will become more powerful than the government itself.

Jews were always at the forefront of campaigns abroad in separate state and religion. It is a tragedy that, in Israel, religious intolerance is encouraged and protected by the government, and it is sad that the Orthodox feel so threatened by Conservative and Reform synagogues. But it is sadder still that the people of Israel, who are ready to do battle for their country in time of war, are so apathetic when their rights are denied them.

JIDA MORRIS MILLER
Tel Aviv.

HYPOCRISY IN CRITICISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — The recent editorial "Democracy's day," was right on target. Israel can hold its head high: the Kahan report was intensive and forthright; and, after all, the Commission was appointed by the elected head of the government, Menachem Begin.

Nonetheless, Jews around the world share the perplexity and frustration of Israelis that a Jewish

state is held to a hypocritical double standard. With a high ethical commitment, we Jews can hold ourselves to whatever standard we wish. But it is not for others to demand of us more than they demand of themselves.

HARRISON J. GOLDIN
Conspirator,
City of New York
New York.

KNESSET MEMBER'S DAMAGING REMARK

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I approve the editorial of The Jerusalem Post of March 18, criticizing the Deputy Knesset Speaker Meir Cohen for having said that "Israel made a fatal mistake when it did not drive 300,000-300,000 Arabs of Judea and Samaria across the Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War."

I would like to add one remark: on the day Mr. Cohen made that statement, we discussed "Human Rights" at the Jerusalem World Conference on Soviet Jewry. Since it is generally accepted that human rights and moral principles are universal, such a statement and the attitude it reflects, on the part of a high-ranking Israeli political figure, can only alter the image of the Jewish people, undermine its moral integrity and strength, and eventually



Meir Cohen

ly jeopardize our struggle for the just cause of our fellow Jews suffering from discrimination, harassment and brutal repression.

PROFESSOR PAUL KESSLER
Paris.

SELECTIVE POISON

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — If Yasser Arafat claims we really did succeed in inventing a selective poison gas which, whether released in a room or in the streets of a town, poisons schoolgirls only

and does not affect their brothers or parents — its inventor should speedily register his patent rights.

HANS MEIR NATH
Holifa.

RADIO NEWS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I refer to Liane Manoe's letter of March 18 regarding TV news.

In a Tel Aviv hotel where I stayed the radio broadcasts BBC World Service and also radio news from Jordan. The English news bulletins broadcast six times daily on Kol Yisrael are not relayed.

I have asked the management to remedy this glaring omission, as it is possible for unsuspecting listeners to be misinformed as to the origin of the English bulletin to which they may be listening.

There is not much point in the Israeli Government constantly saying the media misrepresents its views and actions when it doesn't do anything to ensure that hotels reach visitors with Kol Yisrael news bulletins, not only in English, but other languages.

MAURICE MICHAELS
Tel Aviv (Brighton, U.K.)

MED-DEAD CANAL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — The idea mooted by Mr. Sadun, Director General of the Finance Ministry, to cancel the building of the Mediterranean-Dead Sea Canal is the best idea he's had yet. (March 28). Far better to give our tax money to the worthy doctors than to waste it on this abortive project that will never be finished — like the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv and Netzev Ayalon.

FRED GOLDWATER
Jerusalem.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I wish to protest against the yearly rehashing of the Holocaust by the authorities and the media. I have lived through the actual phenomenon and I harbour just one aspiration in relation to it, utopian though that may be: to forget!

Nobody is served by the morbid preoccupation with our horrible past that we are subjected to time and again, and, in my case, against my will and better judgement.

In particular, young people should be spared. It is a well-known fact that many children of Holocaust survivors are affected by their parents' ordeals and in need of psychotherapy. If care is not taken, the same will apply to their descendants — the third generation.

Surely our present lives are often unpleasant enough. We have had to cope with additional wars and the many calamities we keep inflicting upon ourselves.

I believe it is totally irresponsible and unnecessary to tell children about, or worse, to show them in glorious colour, the ultimate depravity of so-called human beings during the Nazi period, and the sufferings of their victims.

Children should be allowed to be happy and carefree, and to hang on to their illusions for as long as possible.

And I, for one, have had all the torment I can take.

CLARA H. LEFSMA
Yokneum.

POSTAL RATES

In response to inquiries from readers, the postage on an ordinary letter inside Israel is IS2.3.

ARIE FINKELSTEIN
Ramat Gan.

Tora and Flora

Portion of the Week: Aharei Mot-Kedoshim Lev. 16-20.

The verse discussed is 20:24. IN THE SECOND of the two portions read tomorrow, there is one of the 19 references in the Bible to the Land of Israel as "a land flowing with milk and honey." In Deuteronomy 8:8, however, this formulation is replaced by a list of the seven agricultural products of Israel: wheat, barley, fig, grape, pomegranate, olive and dates. Some years ago I referred in this column to the surprising fact that in the hymn *Perek Shira*, which praises the products of the Land of Israel, only six of the seven are singled out for praise, the olive being omitted.

Rabbi Meyer Miller of Garden City, New York misread the article, and under the assumption that I had written that the olive is not mentioned in the Bible as one of the choice products of Israel, stated that his teacher at the Jewish Institute of Religion, Prof. Shalom Spiegel, had put forward the suggestion that the word "zavav", the Hebrew word for the "flowing" of milk and honey was a scribal error. The "bet" of "zavav" should have been a "vav", and the correct reading was not "zavav", but "zaviv", the olive. Thus, Israel is described as "a land of olive, milk and honey."

SUCH A remarkable suggestion is a typical example of the tendency on the part of some modern biblical scholars to change and corrupt the standard text of the Bible, handed down with such loving care as to every jot and tittle. (Incidentally the word "jot" is a form of the Hebrew "yod.")

The verb from which *zavav* is derived occurs many times in the Bible with the meaning "to flow," whether referring to water, blood or discharges from the body, as well as to juice exuding from plants, and applies to both milk and date honey.

This column has on a number of occasions noted that the only use of the olive in biblical times was its oil, and "zavav zayit" (not *zavil*, instead of *zavil*) might be appropriate, ex-



cept that the oil does not flow naturally from the olive, which has to be beaten and pounded and pressed to produce its bounty. Because of that the rabbis compare it to the people of Israel, who produce their best under similar circumstances.

L. I. RABINOWITZ

EDITORIAL COMMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1983

Aridor's free lunch

THE PRECARIOUS condition of Israel's exports is hardly news any longer. Yet even the pessimists were startled earlier this week when the Central Bureau of Statistics disclosed that exports in March were \$100 million less than in the same month last year — \$444 million as compared with \$572m. The official comment — that all was nevertheless well because the recently decreed supports would remedy the situation — was greeted by exporters with pained disbelief.

To be sure, the country's exports are facing a difficult challenge in a depressed world market. In addition, however, exports are shackled by home-made theories so original that they are not to be found in the toolbox of economic policy makers anywhere else.

Mighty Japan, which alone among industrial nations has lately maintained a measure of economic growth, refuses to revalue the yen. West Germany, which last year had a trade surplus of over \$20 billion, revalued the mark only under powerful French pressure. Yet tiny Israel, indebted as it is up to its ears, and with one job in three dependent on exports, insists on keeping up a steady revolution of its currency.

The result is to encourage imports, which most countries are seeking to curb, and to throttle exports which, once foregone, are extremely hard to recover.

The wishful thinking that guides the Treasury in the pursuit of this policy is that a relative and partial price freeze, in the shape of monthly devaluation and government-controlled price increases of only 5 per cent, will also bring inflationary expectations, and eventually inflation itself, down to 5 per cent. The fact that this has not begun to happen, and that there are no signs that it ever will happen, does not deflect the Treasury managers from their upturned course. The argument that a different policy would only make things worse is always at hand.

Now fighting inflation through an all-round freeze — including prices, wages, taxes and the exchange rate — is not a bad idea, in some circumstances. If the international trade winds had been filling the sails of our exports, and if our foreign payments position had been under no threat, it might have made sense to give up even a billion dollars in a concerted effort to suppress inflation.

But in present conditions such a policy would be a risky gamble even if the lid were clamped down consistently on all costs, and even if it were comprehensive. The Treasury, while slowing devaluation down, has not been squeamish about driving up other costs, such as taxes, nor has it been able to keep public expenditures in check. And it is insisting on the pursuit of its gamble at a time when external conditions are distinctly unfavourable to it.

The warnings of exporters that the present policy may cause irreversible damage should be taken seriously. If exports continue to fall not only will the foreign payments gap widen disastrously, but large-scale unemployment could result. With the foreign reserves dangerously depleted by the finance minister's first two contradictory exercises in "proper economics," there may not be enough in the till to finance a third such exercise.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1983

Warsaw grotesque?

THE REPORTS from Warsaw are conflicting, and it is still unclear whether the Polish government intends to let the PLO take part in ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising next Tuesday. Perhaps the Poles have not decided yet. About the attitude which Jewish, including Israeli, delegates to the ceremony should take if the terror organization is indeed to participate, there can be no doubt.

What the PLO is after is plain. It would like to wash itself of the blood of all the innocent Jews it has shed over the years by paying homage to some Jews who were killed, while resisting, by the Nazis. Not so long ago the PLO used to pour cold water on the "Zionist hoax" of the six million. But this has proved unproductive. The wreath-laying, on the other hand, would be good public relations, in both East and West.

But Jews, including Israelis, cannot, and must not, forget that this same PLO to this very day, through its National Convention, denies the very existence of a Jewish People, rejects the legitimacy of the Jewish State, and pledges an all-out effort, even by terror, to bring about the ultimate destruction of the state.

Jews taking part in the ceremony along with the PLO would be helping, as Yehuda Ben-Meir, the deputy foreign minister, suggested yesterday, in the desecration of the memory of the ghetto dead.

The Friday Dry Bones



TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1983

Picking up the pieces

DOES Jordan's retreat from its intention to enter into peace talks based on the Reagan Plan now doom the plan? Yesterday in Jerusalem voices were heard happily predicting that outcome. But only briefly: the euphoric sentiment soon gave way to a more sober assessment.

King Hussein's cabinet ascribed the decision not to any Jordanian change of mind about the presidential initiative, but to the scrapping of the PLO of an agreement reached on the subject between the king and Yasser Arafat. The PLO, at the last moment, apparently concluded that it could not trust Hussein, not even in conjunction with non-PLO Palestinians, to represent the demand for a Palestinian state. President Reagan, for his part, put the blame on "radical elements of the PLO" that "have introduced changes in the proposals that have been made."

Those proposals themselves were in line with the nature of a compromise between Mr. Reagan's ideas and the plan put forward at Fez. But they reflected Jordanian acceptance of at least some ingredients of the presidential initiative — which had been rejected in 1980 by Israel. The announcement from Amman indicated that, while Jordan would for the moment avoid any diplomatic action, it did not turn its back on the Reagan Plan.

The reason is not hard to decipher. The core of the Reagan Plan is the proposed "association" between the West Bank (and Gaza) and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This, in effect, is only a fresh wrinkle on the Americans' traditional reading of Resolution 242 as a mandate for the restoration of Jordan's control over the Palestinian territories west of the river. The novelty of Mr. Reagan's approach has largely been to underline the requirement that any such act of restoration must take due account of the territorial aspects of Israel's defence.

Mr. Reagan's evident assumption has been that his plan would nevertheless prove congenial to King Hussein. This, because the Jordanian monarch is not prepared to permanently abandon the West Bank (and Gaza) Palestinians to their fate, if only out of regard for the stability of his throne. The assumption proved to be correct.

Washington and Amman may still not see eye to eye on some matters — such as the necessity, or at least the duration, of a transitional period of autonomy, before the final status of the territories is decided upon. But there is mutual understanding between them on the shape the final status would take. There is no such understanding between Washington and Jerusalem.

The U.S. has never conceded that Judea and Samaria — and Guza — could, in their entirety, be earmarked as areas of Israeli sovereignty. Mr. Reagan's call for a freeze on Israeli settlement activity in his September 1 address was only a belated response to a patent effort by Mr. Begin's government to preempt the result of any future negotiation on "final status" in Israel's favour.

It is not very likely that Mr. Reagan will now sanction such settlement activity in angry reaction to the upsetting news from Amman. There is, indeed, no sign that the Reagan Plan is about to be buried: this would only compound America's defeat, over which the Syrians and the Russians are obviously crowing.

In the short term, the present gap between Washington and Jerusalem might conceivably be narrowed, for a number of compelling practical reasons. The value of the Jewish-American vote is rising with the approach of the presidential elections. Israel's strategic importance is underlined by the deepening Soviet penetration into Syria. Dropping oil prices are depriving the Arabs of their most powerful political weapon. And an agreement on withdrawal from Lebanon, expected soon, would help ease tensions all around.

But it would be foolhardy to build too much, for too long, on these considerations.